

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXVI COURANT.COM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022

State budget chief resigning



Melissa McCaw is resigning as Connecticut's budget director. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

McCaw taking finance director job in East Hartford four months after her deputy was fired

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — State budget director Melissa McCaw has resigned to take a job in East Hartford as the fallout from an ongoing scandal involving school construction intensified.

Gov. Ned Lamont announced Friday afternoon that McCaw, the state's chief fiscal director since

he took office in 2019, will be leaving her high-profile post as the leader of the Office of Policy and Management. The change is effective March 11 after she takes accumulated personal leave time, but the new acting budget director, Jeffrey Beckham, will be effectively running the sprawling agency immediately.

McCaw is leaving almost exactly four months after her deputy,

Kosta Diamantis, was fired by the Lamont administration after questions were raised about the hiring of his daughter by chief state's attorney Richard Colangelo for a \$99,000-per-year job at the same time that Colangelo was negotiating with Diamantis about raises for his fellow prosecutors and himself. The FBI is investigating the state's school construction program, which Diamantis oversaw, and he

was fired eight days after the state received a subpoena in the criminal case.

Lamont told reporters at the state Capitol that McCaw met with him Thursday at the governor's mansion in Hartford and said she was leaving for a new job as finance director in East Hartford. Lamont said that neither he nor his admin-

Turn to McCaw, Page 3

UKRAINE CRISIS



Shielding their identities out of fear for their families' safety in Ukraine, two Ukrainian-born U.S. citizens walk outside the Connecticut state Capitol on Thursday after attending and asking questions at a news conference held by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal. The two said their families in western Ukraine could hear the bombing of an airport near their homes. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Military spending boost could affect Connecticut



Ukrainian soldiers hold a position Friday that was the site of a battle Thursday with Russian forces on a highway leading into Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. **TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

INSIDE: Russian troops bear down on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, amid growing signs of an effort to overthrow the Ukrainian government. **NEWS, 4**

State's broad network of Pentagon suppliers could see rise in demand

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The invasion of Ukraine launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin could reorder U.S. military spending and ripple across Connecticut's extensive network of Pentagon suppliers.

It's a switch from just 16 months ago when military analysts and some in Congress questioned whether then-President Donald Trump's military budget should be pared by Joe Biden, who had yet to be elected president, to make room for funding for COVID-19 relief and other domestic demands.

"This whole idea that defense is in decline, all we have to do is look across at eastern Europe and see

that is not the case," Greg Hayes, chief executive officer of defense and aerospace giant Raytheon Technologies Corp., said this week at a meeting with industry analysts.

"I know everybody was panicked two years ago with the Biden administration that budgets are coming down," he said. "Budgets aren't going down."

Hayes said he expects military spending to rise by 4% or 5% next year, bringing the total to more than \$770 billion, though part of the increase would be offset by inflation. Raytheon Technologies, which posted revenue of \$64.4 billion last year, manufactures

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Biden makes historic choice

If confirmed, Jackson would become first Black female justice

By Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Friday nominated federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman selected to serve on a court that once declared her race unworthy of citizenship and endorsed segregation.

Introducing Jackson, Biden called her a "proven consensus builder" who has "a pragmatic understanding that the law must work for the American people."

"She strives to be fair, to get it right, to do justice," the president added.

In Jackson, Biden delivers on a campaign promise to make the historic appointment and to further diversify a court that was made up entirely of white men for almost two centuries. He chose an attorney who would be the high court's first former public defender, though she also

Turn to Nominee, Page 2



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, 51, calls President Joe Biden's decision humbling Friday at the White House. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY**

West Hartford schools chief leaving

After eight years as superintendent of West Hartford schools, Tom Moore is leaving to take charge of two high schools serving several Chicago suburbs.

Connecticut, Page 1

Opinion.....	News, 8
Obituaries	News, 10
Lottery	News, 2
Classified.....	News, 9
Puzzles	Connecticut, 6
Comics	Connecticut, 5-6

Hartford Courant
media group

\$5.50 Copyright 2021
The Hartford Courant Co.



6 04209 00300

Hundreds call for children's mental health support

State lawmakers told of need to repair gaps in 'shredded safety net'

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

José Sarmiento was only a few months into high school when he learned that one of his friends had died by suicide. In the wake of that tragedy, it felt as though there were few people to turn to — and available mental health resources seemed inadequate, he said.

"I showed up at school one morning and my friend was

dead," he told Connecticut state legislators Friday during a public hearing on the mental health of children and adolescents. "That's how I learned how this issue works: there's no take-backs, there's no easy way to get rid of that pain by yourself, there's no way to reverse time and change the outcome, there's no definitive solution — just guilt, and a cafeteria full of 14-year-olds crying because their friend was gone."

Now a first-year student at Yale University, Sarmiento said he has come to recognize that preventive measures can be taken to address anxiety and depression, and

praised two legislative proposals under consideration by lawmakers to expand support for young residents' mental health.

The all-day joint public hearing of the Public Health and Children's Committees of the General Assembly drew more than 200 speakers, including health care providers, agency officials, state politicians, parents and students who offered responses to Senate Bill No. 2, which aims to expand preschool and behavioral health services for children, and House Bill 5001, which focuses on workforce and insurance issues.

Passing legislation to support

children's mental health is a top priority, state Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, a Westport Democrat, said, emphasizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and "the various gaps in our shredded safety net," which focuses on workforce and insurance issues.

Lawmakers hope the two bills will significantly bolster the state's support system for children. Senate Bill No. 2 would increase funding for the Office of Early Childhood and the Care-4Kids program serving low- to moderate-income families, as

Turn to Hearing, Page 3

FROM PAGE ONE

Ukraine

from Page 1

missiles, radar equipment, aviation equipment and other military systems and components.

It's the Waltham, Massachusetts-based parent company of Pratt & Whitney, the East Hartford manufacturer of engines for the F-35 fighter jet made by Lockheed Martin Corp. in addition to engines for commercial airlines.

Shares of Raytheon Technologies; Lockheed Martin, which also is the parent company of helicopter manufacturer Sikorsky Aircraft; and General Dynamics Corp., of which submarine manufacturer Electric Boat is a subsidiary, ended the day higher in volatile trading.

Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said that Hayes has a point.

"Events in Ukraine have changed the environment for the need for defenses spending," Courtney said.



The USS Hartford, launched from the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton in 1993. **FILE**

However, he said the "most critical response" would be for Congress to pass an omnibus spending bill to replace what's known as a continuing resolution, or stop-gap funding. Temporary spending measures cripple the departments of Defense and State

and intelligence-gathering, Courtney said.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said spending may not necessarily increase by 4% or 5%, "but the hateful, inhumane aggression by

Putin may require us to increase our commitment."

"Whether it's 1% or 5% I wouldn't say," he said.

Blumenthal said the U.S. may commit to more aid to Ukraine beyond \$750 million in the current budget. Military and economic aid are "going to rise dramatically," he said.

He said he would back supplying Ukraine with military equipment such as stinger and javelin missiles and small arms. Blumenthal credited U.S. military supplies in the 1980s that helped resistance fighters in Afghanistan drive out the Soviet Union that invaded in 1979.

Connecticut's defense industrial base received \$18.3 billion in Pentagon contracts in 2020, according to the state Office of Military Affairs. The sum is conservative and accounts for contracts with a value of \$7 million or more. It does not include thousands of contracts below that threshold, the state agency said.

Defense spending in Connecticut has risen from \$6 billion to \$14 billion in 2007, the Office of

Military Affairs said. "Recently, however, there have been years that soared above this range," the agency said.

It cited U.S. Navy contracts to build two Virginia-class submarines a year and the start of Columbia-class submarine construction at Electric Boat, Pratt & Whitney engines for the F-35 aircraft and logistics and support and Black Hawk, heavy lift and presidential helicopters made by Sikorsky Aircraft based in Stratford.

The Department of Defense ranks Connecticut as sixth among the states in defense spending, according to the Office of Military Affairs.

Regardless of how much money Congress and Biden eventually spend to counter Russia's invasion, Raytheon Technologies has a \$63 billion backlog in defense work, Hayes said.

"All we have to do is execute there. We will see solid growth for the next three years," he said.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Nominee

from Page 1

possesses the elite legal background of other justices.

Jackson would be the current court's second Black justice — Justice Clarence Thomas, a conservative, is the other — and just the third in history; Justice Thurgood Marshall, nominated by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967, was the first. She would replace liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who is retiring at the end of the term this summer, so she won't change the court's 6-3 conservative majority.

Jackson would join the court as it weighs cutbacks to abortion rights and will be considering ending affirmative action in college admissions and restricting voting rights efforts to increase minority representation.

She would be only the sixth woman to serve on the court, but she would join three others already there, including the first Latina, Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

In brief remarks, Jackson thanked Biden, saying she was "humbled by the extraordinary honor of this nomination."

She highlighted her family's first-hand experience with the entirety of the legal system, as



President Joe Biden looks on as federal appeals court judge Ketanji Brown Jackson delivers remarks as his nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court during an event Friday at the White House. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY**

judges and lawyers, an incarcerated member and police officers.

Standing alongside Biden at the White House, she spoke of the historic nature of her nomination, noting she shared a birthday with Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman to be confirmed to the federal bench.

"If I'm fortunate enough to be confirmed as the next associate justice of the Supreme Court United States, I can only hope that my life and career, my love of this country and the Constitution, and

my commitment to upholding the rule of law and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded, will inspire future generations of Americans," Jackson said.

Jackson, 51, once worked as one of Breyer's law clerks early in her legal career. She attended Harvard as an undergraduate and for law school, and served on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the agency that develops federal sentencing policy, before becoming a federal judge in 2013.

Her nomination is subject to

confirmation by the Senate, where Democrats hold the majority by a razor-thin 50-50 margin with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tie-breaker. Party leaders have promised swift but deliberate consideration of the president's nominee.

The news comes two years to the day after Biden, then struggling to capture the Democratic presidential nomination, pledged in a South Carolina debate to nominate a Black woman if presented with a vacancy. "Everyone should be represented," he said then.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin said the panel will "begin immediately" to move forward on consideration of an "extraordinary nominee." Senators have set a tentative goal of confirmation by April 8, when they leave for a two-week spring recess. Hearings could start as soon as mid-March.

Once the nomination is sent to the Senate, it is up to the Senate Judiciary Committee to vet the nominee and hold confirmation hearings. After the committee approves a nomination, it goes to the Senate floor for a final vote.

Biden and Senate Democrats are hoping for a bipartisan vote on the nomination.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of three Republicans

who voted to confirm Jackson to the appeals court last year, had pushed Biden to nominate a different candidate from his home state, Judge J. Michelle Childs, who also was favored by home-state Rep. James Clyburn, a Biden ally.

Graham expressed disappointment in a tweet that Biden had not nominated Childs. Previewing a likely GOP attack line, he and several others on the right said Biden was going with the choice of the "radical left."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said he looked forward to meeting with Jackson and "studying her record, legal views and judicial philosophy." But he noted he had voted against her a year ago.

Jackson serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, a position that Biden elevated her to last year from her previous job as a federal trial court judge. Three current justices — Thomas, Brett Kavanaugh and John Roberts, the chief justice — previously served on the same appeals court.

Jackson was confirmed to that post on a 53-44 Senate vote, winning the backing of three Republicans: Graham, Maine's Susan Collins and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski.

Hartford Courant

A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

NEWS EXECUTIVE

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

Mary Lou Stoneburner
Vice President, Advertising

Dana S. Bisconti
Director, Finance

Brian W. McEnery
Director, Distribution

HOW TO REACH US

The Hartford Courant and www.courant.com
P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569

860-241-6200 (Local calling area)
800-524-4242 (Outside the Hartford area)

Our Circulation Customer Service is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
860-525-5555

Subscriptions, missed delivery or missing sections, vacation stops, billing questions. For same-day redelivery, please call before 10 a.m. daily, 11:30 a.m. Sunday. All numbers are 860 area code unless otherwise noted.

ADVERTISING	241-6221
Classified	525-2525
classifieds@courant.com	800-842-8824
Death notices/Obituaries	241-6392
NEWS	241-6747
SPORTS	241-6435
EDITORIAL PAGE/LETTERS	241-6595
NEWS ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS CONCERNS	
E-mail	readerep@courant.com
Phone	241-3902

The Hartford Courant proudly participates in a comprehensive recycling program to help protect the earth's environment. You can join us by recycling this newspaper.

Published daily and Sunday by The Hartford Courant Company (ISSN 1047-4153). Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster send address changes to: The Hartford Courant, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569. Home delivery rates: Daily and Sunday (7 days), \$1799; *Thursday through Sunday (4 days) \$1399; *Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3 days) \$1250; Thursday and Sunday (2 days) \$1050; Sunday-only service \$899, includes the Thanksgiving paper; Sunday through Friday (6 days) \$1225; Monday through Friday (5 days) \$1250; Monday through Saturday (6 days) \$1158. All subscriptions may include up to 12 premium issues per year. For each premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$5.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/10/21, 2/14/21, 3/28/21, 4/18/21, 5/16/21, 6/13/21, 7/11/21, 8/8/21, 9/5/21, 10/10/21, 11/21/21, 12/19/21. Dates are subject to change without notice. *Service not available in all areas. Rates may vary based on subscription length. Vacation stops do not extend expiration dates. We may increase home delivery rates with 15 days notice. The Hartford Courant reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement. Only publication of the advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertisement. The Hartford Courant shall not be responsible for the omission, in whole or in part, of any advertisement or for any typographical or other error. The Hartford Courant's liability shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the first insertion only. In no event shall The Hartford Courant be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

BREAKING NEWS

Be the first to know when news breaks

SIGN UP TODAY
courant.com/newsletters

LOTTERY
Friday, Feb. 25

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
6 9 6 WB: 2	8 7 6 5 WB: 9

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
9 8 0 WB: 3
PLAY4 NIGHT
3 9 1 5 WB: 5
CASH 5
11 13 26 30 35
LUCKY FOR LIFE
1 2 5 10 34 LB: 6
Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.1 million
Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: \$58 million



Get more out of your subscription by setting up your digital account

- More articles than what's in print
- Breaking News alerts with the mobile app
- Unlimited access to our website
- eNewspaper, a digital replica of the paper emailed daily

It's easy to start your online access!

Visit: go-activate.com

TRIBUNE
PUBLISHING

Chicago Tribune
THE MORNING CALL

Hartford Courant
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Daily Press
The Virginian-Pilot

Orlando Sentinel

SunSentinel

FROM PAGE ONE

NEWS BRIEFING

Capitol rioter who took Pelosi's podium gets prison sentence

From news services

A Florida man who grabbed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's podium and posed for photographs with it during the U.S. Capitol riot was sentenced Friday to more than two months in prison.

The image of Adam Johnson smiling and waving as he carried Pelosi's podium went viral after the pro-Trump mob's attack Jan. 6, 2021. Johnson placed the podium in the center of the Capitol Rotunda, posed for photos and pretended to make a speech, prosecutors said.

After driving home, Johnson bragged that he "broke the internet" and was "finally famous," prosecutors said. They argued that his actions at the Capitol "illustrate his sense of entitlement and privilege."

"The now-viral podium photo portrays Johnson as confident, arguably gleeful, while converting government property to his own use during an unlawful siege," a prosecutor wrote in a court filing.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton sentenced Johnson to 75 days in prison followed by one year of supervised release. The judge also ordered Johnson to pay a

\$5,000 fine and perform 200 hours of community service. Johnson will report to prison at a date to be determined.

Johnson told Walton that posing with Pelosi's podium was a "very stupid idea."

"I bear no ill will toward her or her office at all," Johnson said.

Walton said America is on a dangerous path when many citizens believe that they "have a right to do whatever in order to have the person who they want in power sitting in the White House."

"That's what we see in banana republics," the judge said. "That's where we're headed if we don't do something to stop it. And I don't know what we do to stop it."

Transplant system reform: The U.S. transplant system needs an overhaul to stop wasting organs and give more patients a fair chance at the life-saving surgery, says an influential scientific advisory panel that set a five-year deadline to turn things around.

The U.S. performed a record number of transplants of kidneys, livers and other organs last year, more than 41,000, the vast major-

ity thanks to donations from the dead.

But for all the lives saved, Friday's report from the prestigious National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine puts a spotlight on problems that prevent saving even more.

More than 106,000 patients are on the nation's list for a transplant from a deceased donor, and at least 17 die every day waiting. Many more who could benefit from a transplant never get put on the waiting list, particularly people of color, the report stressed. Among other challenges, geography makes a difference in how long the sick wait for a match and whether potentially usable organs are recovered when would-be donors die.

Sen. Inhofe to step down: Oklahoma's U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, will step down from the Senate in January, triggering a special election for the seat he's held for decades.

Inhofe, 87, announced his decision Friday and endorsed his chief of staff, Luke Holland, as his replacement. The senator did not attend a news event about his announcement in



Deadly earthquake: People inspect a damaged mosque following a magnitude 6.2 earthquake Friday in Pasaman, West Sumatra, Indonesia. A strong and shallow quake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island Friday, killing at least seven people and injuring 85, authorities said. The quake caused panic on the island and in neighboring Malaysia and Singapore. **MARSULAI/AP**

Oklahoma City on Friday because Inhofe had "a mild case of COVID," Holland said on his boss' behalf.

Inhofe, who was elected to a fifth Senate term in 2020, said he will continue to serve until Jan. 3, 2023.

"Nothing is going to change, as far as I'm concerned," Inhofe said as he called in for the news event. "We are going to continue the work we've been doing."

The timing of Inhofe's announcement is related to a quirk in Oklahoma law that requires the governor to call a special election

if a lawmaker announces they intend to retire before March 1. The special election would be held concurrently with the statewide primary, runoff and general election, part of the nation's midterms.

That means Oklahoma voters will elect both U.S. senators in November because U.S. Sen. James Lankford is up for reelection as well.

Sailor faces court-martial: A sailor accused of starting the fire that destroyed the USS Bonhomme Richard

will face a court-martial for arson, the Navy said Friday.

Seaman Recruit Ryan Mays, 20, faces two counts in military court for the July 2020 blaze that injured dozens of personnel aboard the amphibious assault ship as the fire burned for five days and sent acrid smoke wafting over San Diego.

Navy prosecutors have said Mays set the fire because he was disgruntled after dropping out of Navy SEAL training. His defense lawyers said there was no physical evidence connecting him to the blaze.

McCaw

from Page 1

istration asked for her resignation.

"No," Lamont responded when asked by the Courant, adding that the change was McCaw's idea.

"I wasn't shocked," Lamont said. "There is a lot of back and forth going on right now. It's distracting. ... She probably figured a fresh start over in East Hartford made sense for her and made sense for OPM right now."

When asked if McCaw had properly supervised Diamantis through the years, Lamont responded, "I've got confidence in her as secretary of OPM. I think she did a very good job. It's a big agency — a lot of things going on. ... She told me it was time for her to make a move."

He added, "I think Melissa McCaw has been an extraordinary secretary of OPM. But I understood exactly what she was doing and why she was doing it."

McCaw has been among the most influential and highest-paid state employees at \$213,198 per year. Diamantis had been earning \$194,829 per year, according to public records.

McCaw will be working closely with East Hartford Mayor Mike Walsh, a former East Hartford finance director who was recruited by McCaw in 2019 to work in the governor's budget office. A Democrat, Walsh was elected as mayor in November 2021.

The ongoing school construction scandal has become political and is expected to be an issue during the governor's reelection campaign this summer and fall.

"The departure of Gov. Lamont's OPM secretary should not signal an end



Gov. Ned Lamont speaks with his budget director, Melissa McCaw, at his side in 2019 on the outdoor deck outside McCaw's office at the Office of Policy and Management on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

to the ongoing scandal and investigation," said Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski of Madison. "We don't yet know the full extent of corruption within the Lamont administration, but as the people who pay their salaries, Connecticut residents have a right to know."

Stefanowski added that Lamont "at least needs to take accountability for his role in this situation."

Lamont, however, told reporters that he moved quickly upon hearing about problems in his administration.

"I think I would bear responsibility if I didn't react immediately," Lamont said. "I think I reacted immediately. As soon as we found out about the personnel issue between Kosta and Colangelo, we acted on that pretty darn fast. We then went and got Stan Twardy, a former U.S. attorney, and I said I want a complete

debriefing on everything that happened here, and I want to make that public going forward. At that same time, we heard about the federal investigation, and I told my team: 'You participate 100 percent. Leave no stone unturned.'"

Only two weeks ago, Lamont said he was convinced that McCaw would not be pulled into the ongoing scandal involving her former deputy. Lamont told reporters in Southington that McCaw — a key player in crafting Lamont's proposed \$24.2 billion budget — was not involved in the controversy.

"She's told me, in no uncertain terms, she didn't know what was there," Lamont said. "She never approved any pay raises and some of the back and forth between Kosta and Colangelo. She's got a lot of work to do, right now, to get us through this latest budget cycle."

Lamont had said that Colangelo — whom he does not oversee — should be fired. Colangelo soon after announced his retirement effective March 31.

Lamont said he believed Diamantis was a one-man band in the situation and no one else was involved.

"I don't think so," Lamont said. "We moved the state construction right back to DAS. ... We have a fresh set of eyes, looking at every single project out there. We're going to err on the side of absolute transparency. I have zero tolerance for this stuff."

Legislators have been saying for weeks that they expected McCaw to depart at a time of increased scrutiny in state government.

McCaw's departure came one day after Republican legislators called for a bipartisan investigation into the ongoing school construction scandal with subpoena powers to force witnesses to

testify.

Although a federal grand jury is probing potential criminal aspects of school construction, House Republican leader Vincent Candelora said a separate inquiry needs to be conducted by the state legislature regarding more than \$1 billion that has been allocated since 2018 for local public school renovations.

Democrats, who control both chambers of the legislature, dismissed the idea, saying that the already existing committees of cognizance should look into the various aspects of school construction.

"I fully support the call by Republican leaders in the legislature to fulfill their oversight obligation and investigate the Lamont administration for the serious allegations of corruption," said Stefanowski. "The dismissal by the Democrat legislative leaders shows the problem with one-party Democrat control of Connecticut."

Candelora said that Friday's announcement of a new, steady hand at the budget office — with Beckham in charge — and increased oversight on school construction by acting commissioner Michelle H. Gilman and deputy commissioner Noel G. Petra was not enough.

"The governor said his announcement today would make citizens feel confident about their government, but his 'just trust us, we fixed it' approach will only frustrate fed-up residents who see the Democrat response to this crisis for what it is — an election year charade focused on political expediency rather than accountability and good government," Candelora said.

For years, school construction was overseen

by the nonpartisan Department of Administrative Services, where Diamantis previously worked. But when Diamantis was hired by McCaw as the top deputy at OPM, the school projects were switched to that office. The hiring of Diamantis generated attention at the start in 2019 because some officials said that the memo by McCaw that announced the arrival of Diamantis was far more detailed than those involving some other employees.

"In order to ensure the cost efficiencies in administering the school construction program and consistent with OPM's responsibility to administer various municipal grants and municipal aid programs, Kosta will continue to supervise the school construction program, whose staff will be relocated from DAS to OPM in the near future," McCaw wrote at the time in the memo that was first disclosed by Hartford Courant columnist Kevin F. Rennie.

"For this reason, Kosta's functional title will be Deputy Secretary for the Office of Policy and Management and Director of School Construction Grants, Review and Audit. In addition, efforts will be made in the upcoming legislative session to transfer the statutory responsibility for the administration of school construction grants from DAS to OPM. The OSCGR unit and function will leverage synergies with OPM's extensive work supporting our municipalities."

Courant staff writer Edmund H. Mahony contributed to this report.

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Hearing

from Page 1

well as expand preschool and behavioral health services for children. House Bill 5001, meanwhile, would offer licensure reciprocity for out-of-state mental health professionals, staff mental health clinicians in school settings and eliminate prior authorization for in-patient care, among other initiatives.

The tragic depths of the state's mental health crisis gave the hearing a jagged edge.

Child Advocate Sarah Eagan noted that in the past year she has seen has seen more deaths by suicide of children in Connecticut — 14 in total, including some as young as 11 — than at any point in her nine years in the position.

David Johnson, a licensed clinical psychologist, long-time faculty member of the

Yale School of Medicine and co-director of Post Traumatic Stress Center, spoke in strong support of the two bills. He emphasized that the mental health needs of young people, which were high before the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased.

Surveys of thousands of public school students in the New Haven area over the past decade, conducted by Johnson's teams, have returned "alarming" results, he said: 43% reported recent depression, 40% had experienced severe anxiety, 35% had experienced hopelessness and 58% said they could not concentrate on their school studies. Early results from surveys conducted over the course of the pandemic found that those rates have increased by another 25%, he said.

"No longer are mental health needs contained in just 5 or 10% of the student population, where individual counseling or therapy

could address the problem," he said. "With 30 or 40 or 50% of children requiring some degree of support, we need to provide a comprehensive public health approach."

Connecticut hospitals continue to see high levels of children seeking behavioral health care, Public Health Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani told the joint committees. Over the last week there have been about 30 to 35 children ages 13 to 17 waiting for inpatient beds in Connecticut hospitals, though most days, only three or four beds have been available.

Juthani noted that demand for behavioral health care among children tends to surge in October and March and ebb during holiday periods, when there are often no waiting times for inpatient beds.

State Sen. Heather Somers, a Groton Republican, said that in her region,

there is often little availability for placement in mental health care, which forces families to go out-of-state to obtain care.

"Many of the people in my district ... have really suffered, in the fact that there is no access to health care for mental health issues in children, and therefore the child ends up in the emergency room," she said.

A number of child care providers highlighted the challenges faces early childhood centers, an issue which Senate Bill No. 2 attempts to address.

Marc Jaffe, the CEO of Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County — a program serving more than 900 children ages 0 to 5 — said that the early childhood care industry is "on the verge of collapsing" and urged state lawmakers to direct additional resources toward keeping them afloat.

State Sen. Saud Anwar, a South Windsor Demo-

crat and co-chair of the Children's Committee, responded that lawmakers hoped to develop emergency grants for child care centers, to prop up an industry "truly at the brink of a collapse."

Other speakers called attention to areas of improvement within the proposed bills.

Mayor Luke Bronin of Hartford noted that the bills' focus on school-based mental health care risked ignoring youth in Connecticut who are not connected to schools, particularly those involved in the justice system, many of whom have unmet behavioral health needs.

Bronin urged state lawmakers to "resource a much stronger effort" to expand mental health support systems in youth detention centers, including the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire and York Correctional Institution in Niantic, as well as to find

ways to continue providing care to youth who leave such centers.

Thomas Burr, the community and affiliate relations manager for the Connecticut branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, proposed a number of measures to add to House Bill 5001, including instituting annual wellbeing checks for K-12 students and staff and offering suicide prevention programs in school settings.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a mental health system that was stretched to its breaking point here in Connecticut, and broke it," he said. "It is important to recognize we arrived at this point because Connecticut lacks a vision and long-term comprehensive plan for the mental health of our residents."

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian troops push to capture Kyiv

Blasts jolt capital; NATO to deploy more forces east

By Yuras Karmanau, Jim Heintz and Vladimir Isachenkov Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian troops bore down on Ukraine’s capital Friday while the president grimly predicted that the conflict would soon intensify, and fears of wider war in Europe triggered new international efforts to make Moscow stop, including direct sanctions on President Vladimir Putin.

Amid reports of hundreds of casualties — including shelling that sliced through a Kyiv apartment building and pummeled bridges and schools — there also were growing signs that Russia may be seeking to overthrow Ukraine’s government, which U.S. officials have described as Putin’s ultimate objective. It would be his boldest effort yet to redraw the world map and revive Moscow’s Cold War-era influence.

His country fending off explosions and gunfire, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for a cease-fire and warned in a bleak statement that multiple cities were under attack. “This night they will storm,” he said.

NATO, meanwhile, decided to send parts of the alliance’s response force to help protect its member nations in the east for the first time. NATO did not say how many troops would be deployed but added that it



A resident reacts near her home on a street that was damaged by a rocket attack Friday in Kyiv, Ukraine. EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

would involve land, sea and air power.

For their part, U.S. defense officials believe the Russian offensive has encountered considerable resistance and is proceeding slower than Moscow had envisioned, though that could change quickly.

The Kremlin accepted Kyiv’s offer to hold talks, but it appeared to be an effort to squeeze concessions out of Zelenskyy instead of a gesture toward a diplomatic solution.

The Russian military continued its advance, laying claim Friday to the southern Ukrainian city of Melito-

pol. Still, it was unclear in the fog of war how much of Ukraine is still under Ukrainian control and how much or little Russian forces have seized.

As fighting persisted, Ukraine’s military reported shooting down an II-76 Russian transport plane carrying paratroopers near Vasylykiv, a city 25 miles south of Kyiv, an account confirmed by a senior U.S. intelligence official. Transport planes can carry up to 125 paratroopers.

The U.S. and other global powers slapped ever-tougher sanctions on Russia as the invasion reverberated through the world’s econ-

omy and energy supplies, threatening to further hit ordinary households.

U.N. officials said millions could flee Ukraine.

Through it all, Russia remained unbowed, vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding that it stop attacking Ukraine and withdraw troops immediately. The veto was expected, but the U.S. and its supporters argued that the effort would highlight Moscow’s international isolation. The 11-1 vote, with China, India and the United Arab Emirates abstaining, showed significant but not total opposition to Russia’s

invasion of its smaller, militarily weaker neighbor.

The meeting exposed Russia-Ukraine frictions, including when Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya requested a moment of silence to pray for those killed and asked Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia to pray “for salvation.”

Nebenzia retorted that the remembrance should include people who have died in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region. Pro-Russian separatists there have been fighting the Ukrainian government, which Russia accuses of abuses.

A moment of tense silence

did ensue.

Day Two of Russia’s invasion, the largest ground war in Europe since World War II, focused on the Ukrainian capital, where reporters heard explosions starting before dawn. Gunfire was reported in several areas.

A large boom was heard in the evening near Maidan Nezalezhnosti, the square in central Kyiv that was the heart of protests which led to the 2014 ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president.

Five explosions struck near a major power plant on Kyiv’s eastern outskirts, said Mayor Vitaly Klitschko. There was no information on what caused them, and no electrical outages were immediately reported.

It was unclear how many people overall had died. Ukrainian officials reported at least 137 deaths on their side from the first full day of fighting and claimed hundreds on the Russian one. Russian authorities released no casualty figures.

U.N. officials reported 25 civilian deaths, mostly from shelling and airstrikes, and said that 100,000 people were believed to have left their homes. They estimate that up to 4 million could flee if the fighting escalates.

Zelenskyy tweeted that he and U.S. President Joe Biden spoke by phone and discussed “strengthening sanctions, concrete defense assistance and an antiwar coalition.”

His whereabouts were kept secret after Zelenskyy told European leaders in a call Thursday that he was Russia’s No. 1 target — and that they might not see him again alive. Video later showed him in the capital.



A girl plays Friday at a temporary refugee shelter in Zahony, Hungary. ANNA SZILAGYI/AP

WAR IN UKRAINE

Women, children, elderly flee to neighboring nations

By Vanessa Gera, Bela Szandelszky and Adam Pemble Associated Press

PRZEMYSL, Poland — Thousands of Ukrainians crossed into neighboring countries to the west in search of safety as Russia pounded their capital and other cities with airstrikes for a second day.

Those arriving were mostly women, children and the elderly after Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday banned men ages 18 to 60 from leaving the country.

A woman from the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, who arrived in Przemyśl, Poland, broke down in tears describing how men were pulled off trains in Ukraine before they got to the border.

“Even if the man was traveling with his own child he couldn’t cross the border, even with a kid,” said the woman, who would only give her first name, Daria.

Vilma Sugar, 68, fled her home in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, shaking in fear, and then faced the heartbreak of her 47-year-son being stopped.

“I’m shaking, I can’t calm down,” she said after reaching Zahony, Hungary.

Another woman who arrived on her train, Erzsebet Kovacs, 50, said men were not even allowed to enter the station. “We women boarded the train, but the men were ordered to step to the side,” she said.

The Ukrainian authorities, she said, “were nice, not rude, but they said that men have a duty to defend the country.”

Cars were backed up for several miles at some border crossings as authorities in Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia mobilized to receive them, providing shelter, food and legal help. These countries also eased their usual border procedures, among them COVID-19 testing requirements.

At border crossings in Poland, Ukrainians arrived on foot and by car and train — some with their pets — and were greeted by Polish authorities and volunteers offering them food and hot drinks.

Some sought to join relatives who have already settled in Poland and other

EU nations, whose strong economies have for many years attracted Ukrainian workers.

Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the EU will take in all people fleeing Ukraine due to the current conflict.

The U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, estimated that more than 100,000 people were believed to have left their homes in Ukraine and that up to 4 million people may flee to other countries if the situation escalates.

Hungary announced in a decree this week that all citizens arriving from Ukraine, and all third-country nationals legally residing there, would be entitled to protection.

The welcome that Poland and Hungary are showing Ukrainians is different from the unwelcoming stance they have had toward refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa in recent years. But Ukrainians are viewed differently by Poles and others because they are mostly Christian, and, for the Poles, fellow Slavs with similar linguistic and cultural roots.

WAR IN UKRAINE

US, Britain, EU agree to put Putin, Lavrov in financial vise

By Raf Casert and Aamer Madhani Associated Press

BRUSSELS — With a military intervention in Ukraine off the table, and countries around the world looking to heap more financial punishment on Moscow, the United States, Britain and European Union said Friday they will move to sanction Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The EU’s unanimous decision, part of a broader sanctions package, indicated that Western powers are moving toward unprecedented measures to try to force Putin to stop the brutal invasion of Russia’s neighbor and from unleashing a major war in Europe.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also told NATO leaders during a call Friday that Britain would move to impose sanctions against Putin and Lavrov. The EU said it would move to freeze Putin’s assets.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki indicated the U.S. sanctions will include a travel ban.

President Joe Biden, who had previously said sanctions targeting Putin were under consideration, decided to make the move in the last 24 hours after talks with European leaders.

Psaki said the move is intended send “a clear message about the strength of the opposition to the actions” by the West against President Putin.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said the move would be “a unique step in history toward a nuclear power, a country that has a permanent seat on the Security Council, but also shows how united we are.”

It was unclear what the



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talks to top envoys from the separatist areas in Ukraine during a meeting Friday in Moscow. RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE

practical impact on the two men would be and how important their assets in the EU were.

“I can assure you that if you got major assets and all of a sudden you can’t get hold of them, it will cost you,” said EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell.

EU ministers have said that even further sanctions were still possible, including booting Russia out of SWIFT, the dominant system for global financial transactions.

“The debate about SWIFT is not off the table, it will continue,” Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said.

Admonishing Russia further, the Council of Europe suspended Russia from the continent’s foremost human rights organization. The 47-nation council said Russia remained a member and continued to be bound by the relevant human rights conventions.

Seeking to buttress its eastern flank, the NATO alliance agreed Friday to send thousands of troops, backed by air and naval support, to protect allies near Russia and Ukraine.

Speaking after chairing a virtual summit,

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the 30-nation organization will send parts of the NATO Response Force and elements of a quickly deployable spearhead unit to the alliance’s eastern flank. It’s the first time the force has been used to defend NATO allies.

Stoltenberg did not say how many troops would be sent or where they might go.

Undeterred in the game of punitive sanctions, Russia started its own tit-for-tat measures, banning British flights to and over its territory in retaliation to a similar U.K. ban on Aeroflot flights.

Russian authorities also announced the “partial restriction” of access to Facebook after the social media network limited the accounts of several Kremlin-backed media. Russian state communications watchdog Roskomnadzor said it demanded that Facebook lift the restrictions it placed Thursday on state news agency RIA Novosti, state TV channel Zvezda, and pro-Kremlin news sites Lenta.Ru and Gazeta.Ru.

In a sign of papal anger, Pope Francis went to the Russian Embassy to “express his concern about the war,” the Vatican said.

Get more out of your subscription by setting up your digital account

It’s easy to start your online access! Visit: go-activate.com



WORLD & NATION

CDC eases guidelines on wearing masks indoors

But agency advises public to keep them on in high-risk areas

By Carla K. Johnson and Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

Most Americans live in places where healthy people, including students in schools, can safely take a break from wearing masks under new U.S. guidelines released Friday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outlined the new set of measures for communities where COVID-19 is easing its grip, with less of a focus on positive test results and more on what's happening at hospitals.

The new system greatly changes the look of the CDC's risk map and puts more than 70% of the U.S. population in counties where the coronavirus is posing a low or medium threat to hospitals. Those are the people who can stop wearing masks, the agency said.

The agency is still advising that people, including schoolchildren, wear masks where the risk of COVID-19 is high. That's the situation in about 37% of U.S. coun-

ties, where about 28% of Americans reside.

The new recommendations do not change the requirement to wear masks on public transportation and indoors in airports, train stations and bus stations.

The CDC guidelines for other indoor spaces aren't binding, meaning cities and institutions even in areas of low risk may set their own rules.

And the agency says people with COVID-19 symptoms or who test positive shouldn't stop wearing masks.

But with protection from immunity rising — both from vaccination and infection — the overall risk of severe disease is now generally lower, the CDC said.

“Anybody is certainly welcome to wear a mask at any time if they feel safer wearing a mask,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a news briefing. “We want to make sure our hospitals are OK and people are not coming in with severe disease.”

She added, “Anyone can go to the CDC website, find out the volume of disease in their community and make that decision.”

Since July, CDC's trans-

mission-prevention guidance to communities has focused on two measures — the rate of new COVID-19 cases and the percentage of positive test results over the previous week.

Based on those measures, agency officials advised people to wear masks indoors in counties where spread of the virus was deemed substantial or high.

This week, more than 3,000 of the nation's more than 3,200 counties — greater than 95% — were listed as having substantial or high transmission.

That guidance has increasingly been ignored, however, with states, cities, counties and school districts across the country announcing plans to drop mask mandates amid declining COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

With many Americans already taking off their masks, the CDC's shift won't make much practical difference for now, said Andrew Noymer, a public health professor at the University of California, Irvine.

But it will help when the next wave of infection — a likelihood in the fall or winter — starts threatening hospital capacity again, he said.



A shopper wears a mask as a precaution against the coronavirus this month in Philadelphia. The CDC eased mask rules in healthy areas of the country Friday. **MATT ROURKE/AP**

“There will be more waves of COVID. And so I think it makes sense to give people a break from masking,” Noymer said. “If we have continual masking orders, they might become a total joke by the time we really need them again.”

The CDC is also offering a color-coded map — with counties designated as orange, yellow or green — to help guide local officials and residents.

In green counties, local officials can drop any indoor masking rules. Yellow means people at high risk for severe disease should be cautious.

Orange designates places where the CDC suggests masking should be universal.

How a county comes to be designated green, yellow or orange will depend on its rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions, the share of staffed hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients and the rate of new cases in the community.

Mask requirements already have ended in most of the U.S. in recent weeks.

Los Angeles on Friday began allowing people to remove their masks while indoors if they are vaccinated, and indoor mask

mandates in Washington state and Oregon will be lifted in March.

State health officials are generally pleased with the new guidance and “excited with how this is being rolled out,” said Dr. Marcus Plescia of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

“This is the way we need to go. I think this is taking us forward with a new direction going on in the pandemic,” Plescia said. “But we’re still focusing on safety. We’re still focusing on preventing death and illness.”

House panel asks archives for details on files found at Trump’s estate

By Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A congressional oversight committee sought additional documents Friday from the National Archives related to former President Donald Trump's handling of White House records as the panel looks to expand its investigation into his handling of sensitive and even classified information.

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform sent a

letter to the archivist, laying out document requests needed to determine if the former president violated federal records laws when he took 15 boxes of White House records to his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida after leaving office last year.

The committee needs additional documents and information available from the National Archives and Records Administration “to investigate the full extent of this conduct and determine what additional steps,

including potential legislative reforms, may be needed to ensure the preservation of presidential records for the American people,” Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., chairwoman of the Oversight Committee, wrote in the letter.

Among the items requested is a detailed account of the contents of the more than a dozen boxes recovered by the archives from Mar-a-Lago, all presidential records Trump had attempted to destroy,

communication records made on personal devices and unofficial messaging systems between White House aides, including former chief of staff Mark Meadows, counsel Don McGahn and lawyer Pat Cipollone.

The committee is also requesting documents and communications during Trump's term in office related to the preservation or destruction of social media records, including direct messages from those

in his orbit, such as daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump; lawyer Rudy Giuliani's son, Andrew Giuliani; and top aide Kellyanne Conway.

The archivist, David Ferriero, had responded to the House committee's request last week, disclosing that classified information was among the items taken by Trump to his Florida home and that some records recovered were torn up and taped back together.

While the Presidential Records Act bars the

removal of classified documents to unauthorized locations, it is possible that Trump could try to argue that, as president, he was the ultimate declassification authority.

Trump has denied reports about his administration's tenuous relationship with the National Archives and said last Friday that “the National Archives did not ‘find’ anything, they were given, upon request, Presidential Records in an ordinary and routine process.”

SALLY KELLERMAN 1937-2022

Actor nominated for Oscar as ‘Hot Lips’ in ‘MASH’ film

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sally Kellerman, the Oscar- and Emmy-nominated actor who played Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan in director Robert Altman's 1970 film “MASH,” died Thursday.

Kellerman died of heart failure at her home in the Woodland Hills section of Los Angeles, her manager and publicist Alan Eichler said. She was 84.

Kellerman had a career of more than 60 years in film and television.

She played a college professor who was returning student Rodney Dangerfield's love interest in the 1986 comedy “Back to School.” And she was a regular in Altman's films, appearing in 1970's “Brewster McCloud,” 1992's “The Player” and 1994's “Ready to Wear.”

But she would always be best known for playing Maj. Houlihan, a straitlaced, by-the-book Army nurse who is tormented by rowdy doctors during the Korean War in the Army comedy “MASH.”

In the film's key scene, and its peak moment of misogyny, a tent where Houlihan is showering is pulled open, and she is exposed to an audience of cheering men.

“This isn't a hospital, this is an insane asylum!” she screams at her commanding officer.

She carries on a torrid affair with the equally uptight Maj. Frank Burns, played by Robert Duvall, demanding that he kiss her “hot lips” in a moment secretly broadcast over the camp's public address speakers, earning her the nickname.

Kellerman said Altman brought out the best in her.

“It was a very freeing, positive experience,” she told Dick Cavett in a 1970



Sally Kellerman played Maj. Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan in the 1970 comedy film “MASH,” which was nominated for five Academy Awards. **JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION 2015**

TV interview. “For the first time in my life I took chances, I didn't suck in my cheeks, or worry about anything.”

The film was nominated for five Academy Awards, but her best supporting actress was its only acting nod despite a cast that included Duvall, Donald Sutherland and Elliot Gould.

The movie would be turned into a TV series that lasted 11 seasons, with Loretta Swit in Kellerman's role.

Sally Clare Kellerman was born in 1937 in Long Beach, California, the daughter of a piano teacher and an oil executive, moving to Los Angeles as a child and attending Hollywood High School.

Her initial interest was in jazz singing, and she was signed to a contract with Verve records at 18. She opted to pursue acting and didn't put out any music until 1972, when she released the album “Roll With the Feeling.” She would sing on the side, and sometimes in roles, throughout her career, releasing her last album,

“Sally,” in 2007.


She took an acting class at Los Angeles City College and appeared in a stage production of “Look Back in Anger” with classmate Jack Nicholson and several other future stars.



She worked mostly in television early in her career, with a lead role in 1962's “Cheyenne” and guest appearances on “The Twilight Zone,” “The Outer Limits,” “The Alfred Hitchcock Hour” and “Bonanza.” Her appearance in the original “Star Trek” as Dr. Elizabeth Dehner won her cult status among fans.

She would work primarily in film in the years following “MASH.”

She would work into her 80s, with several acclaimed TV performances in her final years. In 2014 she was nominated for an Emmy for her recurring role on “The Young and the Restless.”


Kellerman was married to television producer Rick Edelstein from 1970 to 1972 and to movie producer Jonathan D. Krane from 1980 until his death in 2016. She is survived by her son, Jack, and daughter, Claire.

**Adopt US Kids**



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

J&J, distributors finalize \$26B opioid settlements

Majority of money to help states, local governments deal with drug epidemic

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

CAMDEN, N.J. — Drugmaker Johnson & Johnson and three major distributors finalized nationwide settlements over their role in the opioid addiction crisis Friday, an announcement that clears the way for \$26 billion to flow to nearly every state and local government in the country.

Taken together, the settlements are the largest to date among the many opioid-related cases that have been playing out across the country. They're expected to provide a significant boost to efforts aimed at reversing the crisis in places that have been devastated by it, including many parts of rural America.

Johnson & Johnson, Amerisource-Bergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson announced the settlement plan last year, but the deal was contingent on getting participation from a critical mass of state and local governments.

Friday was the deadline for the companies to announce whether they felt enough

governments had committed to participate in the settlement and relinquish the right to sue. The four companies notified lawyers for the governments in the case that their thresholds were met, meaning money could start flowing to communities by April.

"We're never going to have enough money to immediately cure this problem," said Joe Rice, one of the lead lawyers who represented local governments in the litigation. "What we're trying to do is give a lot of small communities a chance to try to change some of their problems."

While none of the money will go directly to victims of opioid addiction or their survivors, the vast majority of it is required to be used to deal with the epidemic.

With fatal overdoses continuing to rage across the U.S., largely because of the spread of fentanyl and other illicitly produced synthetic opioids, public health experts are urging governments to use the money to ensure access to drug treatment for people with addictions. They also emphasize the need to fund programs that are proven to work, collect data on their efforts and

launch prevention efforts aimed at young people, all while focusing on racial equity.

New Brunswick, New Jersey-based Johnson & Johnson has nine years to pay its \$5 billion share. The distributors — Conshohocken, Pennsylvania-based AmerisourceBergen, Columbus, Ohio-based Cardinal Health and Irving, Texas-based McKesson — agreed to pay their combined \$21 billion over 18 years.

The companies are not admitting wrongdoing and are continuing to defend themselves against claims that they helped cause the opioid crisis that were brought by entities that are not involved in the settlements.

The requirement that most of the money be used to address the opioid crisis contrasts with a series of public health settlements in the 1990s with tobacco companies. In those cases, states used big chunks of the settlement money to fill budget gaps and fund other priorities.

The amount sent to each state under the opioid settlement depends on a formula that takes into account the severity of the crisis and the population.

Inflation gauge rises 6.1% from a year ago

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An inflation gauge that is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve jumped 6.1% in January compared with a year ago, the latest evidence that Americans are enduring sharp price increases that will likely worsen after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The figure reported Friday by the Commerce Department was the largest year-over-year rise since 1982. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, core inflation increased 5.2% in January from a year earlier.

Robust consumer spending has combined with widespread product and worker shortages to create the highest inflation in four decades — a heavy burden for households, especially lower-income families faced with elevated costs for food, fuel and rent.

At the same time, consumers as a whole largely shrugged off the higher prices last month and boosted their spending 2.1% from December to January, Friday's report said, an encouraging sign for the economy and the job market. That was a sharp improvement from December, when spending fell. Americans across the income scale have been receiving pay raises and have amassed more savings than they had before the pandemic struck two years ago. That expanded pool of savings provides fuel for future spending.

Inflation, though, is expected to remain high and perhaps accelerate in the coming months, especially with Russia's invasion likely disrupting oil and gas exports.

A separate report Friday showed that orders for long-lasting factory goods rose sharply in January. The figures indicate that many companies are willing to invest more in industrial equipment and other goods, a sign of confidence in the economy.



Engineers remove seats as they convert a Boeing 767 passenger plane to a cargo plane this month near Tel Aviv, Israel. ODED BALILTY/AP

Cashing in on e-commerce

Israeli company converting passenger jets grounded amid the pandemic to cargo planes

By Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

LOD, Israel — The passenger doors on the jumbo jet were just too small. So engineers at Israel's main airport sliced a new hole the size of an SUV into the side of the fuselage — and hoisted a massive hatch into place.

In many ways, it's the doorway to the post-pandemic future of the battered airline industry.

As global tourism struggles to its feet after two harrowing years of coronavirus restrictions, Israel's state-owned aerospace company is cashing in on the growth of e-commerce by converting grounded passenger planes into cargo jets for global giants like Amazon and DHL.

The work reflects what analysts think is a permanent, pandemic-driven boom for shipping the stuff people buy.

To adapt, Israel Aerospace Industries early in the pandemic sped up and expanded what amounts to its assembly line.

The sales pitch: At about \$35 million an aircraft, the metamorphosis is a bargain compared to buying a new cargo plane four or five times that price.

Now, the company says, it transforms about 25 planes a year, up from about 18 annually before COVID-19.

The company has emerged as a top player in this market, competing with others like Boeing. Its numbers continue to grow, and IAI officials say orders are booked for the next four years.

"This is about the relationship between passengers and cargo and pandemic," said Shmuel Kuzi, executive vice president and general manager of the company's aviation division.

He says IAI now converts Boeing 737s and the much larger 767s. A converted 767 can carry 60 tons of cargo on two floors.

Next year, the company expects to convert even bigger 777s — the first in the world, he says, with the work at a new plant in Abu Dhabi. That's partly a result of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords, which formally established relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. And it's a sign, Kuzi says, of the demand for converted jumbo jets.

Analysts say the explosive growth in online buying is likely to settle as the

pandemic wanes, inflation rises and people spend less time at their laptops.

But the cost of shipping goods, exacerbated by tangles in the supply chain, is expected to challenge even the largest businesses. Amazon, for example, pointed in part to rising shipping costs when it boosted its Prime membership on Feb. 18 from \$119 to \$139.

E-commerce jumped by double-digit percentages at the start of the pandemic, accelerating a trend driven by shutdowns that kept people inside. Instead of traveling, people ordered online and expected speedy doorstep service.

That's a big part of the reason that demand for cargo planes has held up throughout the pandemic.

Before the crisis, 50% of all global air cargo traveled in passenger planes. But when the pandemic began, some 80% of passenger planes stopped flying. The price of freight shipped by sea soared.

Air freighters needed a workaround — and grounded passenger planes provided one.

Eytan Buchman, chief marketing officer of Freightos, a Jerusalem-based booking platform, said one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to increase capacity was converting passenger planes into freighters.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Fed mulls hike in interest rates

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller said Thursday that he is willing to support a half-point interest rate hike at the central bank's next meeting in March if upcoming data suggests inflation is worsening.

Waller's comments, in a speech at the University of California, Santa Barbara, underscore the range of opinion among Fed officials about its next steps.

After Russia invaded Ukraine early Thursday, many economists and investors considered a half-point rate hike much less likely at the March meeting. But Waller only said the invasion's impact on the U.S. economy "remains to be seen."

Other Fed officials have pushed back against a bigger hike in recent days.

Mortgage rate drops to 3.89%

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates fell slightly this week, after rising to their highest level in three years last week.

The average rate on a 30-year loan declined to 3.89% this week from 3.92% the previous week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday. A year ago, the long-term rate was 2.97%.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those refinancing their homes, ticked down to 3.14% from 3.15% one week earlier. It stood at 2.34% a year ago.

Home prices have climbed about 14% in the past year and as much as 30% in some cities. Available housing has been limited since before the pandemic began in 2020.

Most rental aid went to needy, Treasury says

By Michael Casey and Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 80% of the billions of dollars in federal rental assistance aimed at keeping families in their homes during the pandemic went to low-income tenants, the Treasury Department said.

It also concluded this week that the largest percentage of tenants receiving pandemic aid were Black followed by female-led households. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Treasury found that more than 40% of tenants getting help were Black and two-thirds of recipients were female-headed households. The data was consistent with what Treasury saw throughout

the year.

"This is money that flows from Treasury to every state and territory in the country, and we really have seen a real focus on delivering these dollars," said Noel Andres Poyo, the deputy assistant secretary for Community Economic Development at Treasury. "It has been encouraging from my point of view to see states that are very diverse and to see these agencies lean into something really hard, it was really tough to stand up these programs, this data reflects where the need was."

According to the Eviction Lab at Princeton University, those most likely to face eviction are low-income women, especially women of color. Domestic violence victims and families with children are also at high

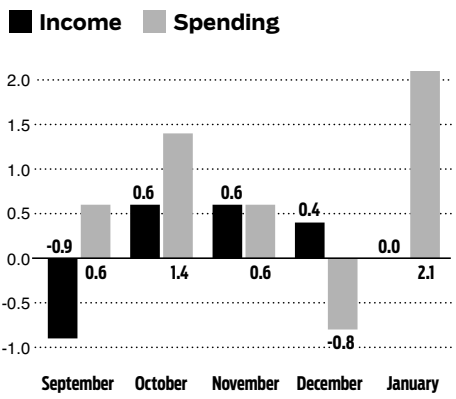
risk for eviction.

"It's really encouraging to see so much of the rental assistance reaching those most in need: women, Black renters, and low-income households in particular," Peter Hepburn, a research fellow at the Eviction Lab, said. "These are the groups that face highest risk of eviction and who were most severely affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic."

Lawmakers approved \$46.5 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance last year. After early challenges getting the funds out, the pace of distribution picked up significantly. Throughout 2021, over \$25 billion has been spent and obligated. That represents 3.8 million payments to households, Treasury said Thursday.

Personal income and spending

Percent change from preceding month



SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis

TNS

BUSINESS



A man lowers his mask to smoke this month at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Smoking is allowed on only 25% of casino floors in Atlantic City. **WAYNE PARRY/AP**

NJ casino smoke ban may be a drag on revenue, report says

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Amid a renewed push to ban smoking in Atlantic City’s casinos, a new report released this week predicts that doing so could cost up to 2,500 casino jobs and nearly 11% of casinos’ revenue as they struggle to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic.

The independent gambling research firm Spectrum Gaming Group compiled the report that supports casinos’ long-standing contention that eliminating smoking would hurt their business, deprive New Jersey of tax revenue and put thousands of people out of work.

A group of casino workers and smoking opponents criticized the report, saying it prioritizes profits over the health of employees and customers. They also said it fails to examine what would happen in subsequent years as patrons get used to a smoking ban, citing the experience of some tribal casinos where it rebounded.

The Casino Association

of New Jersey commissioned the report, which did not recommend whether smoking should be banned, an option that is gaining renewed support in the state Legislature. New Jersey’s Democratic governor, Phil Murphy, has said he will sign a smoking ban into law if a bill is passed.

Among other findings, it determined that smokers, who account for 21% of Atlantic City gamblers, are worth more to casinos than non-smokers in that they tend to lose more money and spend more on non-gambling items.

Joe Lupo, president of the casino association and of Atlantic City’s Hard Rock casino, said Atlantic City “faces some very dire issues.”

He said casino employment and visitation to Atlantic City are both at 20-year lows, and in-person gambling revenue has yet to return to pre-COVID levels, down 5% in 2021 compared to 2019.

“Now is not the time to enact a smoking ban,” he said, adding that doing so “could cause a devastating effect to the community and

state.”

Nicole Vitola, a Borgata dealer and a leader of the group pushing for a smoking ban, said workers “cannot continue to choose between our health and a paycheck.”

“This study, paid for by the casino industry, shows once again that they care more about outdated business practices than they do about the lives and health of their workers,” she said.

The group Americans for Non-Smokers’ Rights cited a July tribal gambling conference in Las Vegas at which panelists reported that revenue lost during the first year of smoking bans rebounded in subsequent years to higher than what it was before the bans.

They also cited a comment last fall from Bill Miller, president of the American Gaming Association, that some casinos have enacted smoking bans “without detrimental effects.”

Smoking is allowed on 25% of casino floors in Atlantic City. The casinos claim a ban would send smokers to neighboring Pennsylvania.

Health care providers opting to open in empty retail space

By Jane Margolies
The New York Times

Health care providers are increasingly choosing former stores for their offices and clinics, in a trend known as medtail — a reflection of the medical industry’s migration to retail properties.

The pandemic has accelerated their embrace of retail space. Taking advantage of depressed rents, medical providers are opening facilities in storefronts on city streets and moving into malls and shopping centers in suburban and rural areas, sometimes occupying the hulking shells vacated by big-box and department stores.

In the past, landlords might not have welcomed such tenants — some just didn’t want sick people around their properties, experts say — but they are increasingly seeking them out to fill vacancies and help generate foot traffic that may benefit the other occupants. This has been especially true for health care providers that brand themselves as so-called wellness companies, adopting the look and feel of consumer-oriented retailers.

“The retailization of health care has really exploded,” said Barrie Scardina, a retail expert for Cushman & Wakefield.

The medtail concept has been gaining traction.

Today, about 20% of leased medical space is in retail buildings, up from about 16% in 2010, according to data from the research firm CoStar Group.

But it remains to be seen whether health care tenants can put a dent in retail vacancies resulting from the rise of e-commerce, a swing compounded by the pandemic.

Health care startups face many hurdles, including a competitive environment, high renovation costs and



A One Medical location in San Diego recently opened in a site once occupied by a clothing retailer. The medtail concept is gaining traction. **ARIANA DREHLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

fickle landlords.

“It’s challenging to predict,” said Carri Chan, the faculty director of the health care and pharmaceutical management program at the Columbia Business School.

Of course, many health care providers still choose to remain on hospital campuses and in medical office buildings, and some — eyeglass stores with optometrists on staff, for example — have long occupied retail settings.

But the proliferation of urgent care centers over the past two decades has helped broaden the idea of where consumers can seek medical attention. Such “doc-in-the-box” facilities — which fill the gap between a visit to a primary care physician and one to a hospital emergency room — tend to be near where people live and shop. Their retail-style signage helps them fit in.

At the same time, some pharmacy and supermarket chains have been adding walk-in clinics. Such facilities are typically staffed with physician assistants or nurse practitioners. CVS began opening clinics in its stores in 2005 and currently has more than 1,100.

But now providers offering services like cosmetic

dermatology, dental care, physical therapy and senior wellness are seeking retail real estate. They are opening in street-level storefronts and vacated department stores when people might be uneasy about going to the hospital, which has become associated with coronavirus outbreaks, but are obtaining medical attention in nontraditional places by getting COVID-19 shots at convention centers and PCR tests on city sidewalks.

“Being able to go into a retail environment closer to home, a smaller facility, felt safer and more convenient and also felt newer and cleaner,” said Matthew Coursen, an executive managing director at JLL, a commercial real estate services company.

For landlords hit by store closures during the pandemic, well-funded health care providers, which tend to sign long-term leases, are suddenly desirable.

“As the landlord thinks about what will happen if we ever go through a crisis again, they want things that won’t close — grocery stores, pharmacies and medical facilities,” said Scardina of Cushman & Wakefield.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, February 26, 2022

▲ **DOW**
34,058.75 +834.92

▲ **10-YR T-BOND**
1.98% +.01

▼ **GOLD**
\$1,886.50 -38.90

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 34,058.75
Change: 834.92 (2.5%)

10 DAYS

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	91.59	92.81	+21.78%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.47	4.67	+19.84%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.73	2.77	+22.39%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,886.50	1,925.40	+3.23%
Silver (oz)	24.00	24.69	+2.87%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3411	.7457
Canada	.7866	1.2713
China	.1583	6.3171
Euro	1.1264	.8878
Japan	.008651	115.59
Mexico	.049071	20.3786

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.33	0.38	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.72	0.66	
5-yr T-Note	1.86	1.85	
10-yr T-Note	1.98	1.97	
30-yr T-Bond	2.29	2.31	

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,058.75	+834.92	-6.27%
DOW Trans.	15,207.21	+380.27	-7.71%
DOW Util.	938.25	+32.76	-4.34%
NYSE Comp.	16,427.96	+431.96	-4.29%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,694.62	+221.04	-12.47%
S&P 500	4,384.65	+95.95	-8.00%
S&P 400	2,661.60	+72.73	-6.35%
Wilshire 5000	44,260.12	+959.32	-8.67%
Russell 2000	2,040.93	+44.93	-9.10%

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,567.23	+515.13	+3.67%	-8.29%
London	7,489.46	+282.08	+3.91%	+1.42%
Hong Kong	22,767.18	-134.38	-.59%	-2.69%
Nikkei	26,476.50	+505.68	+1.95%	-8.04%

Find Power in COMMUNITY

Top 5 Reasons to Live at the McAuley

1. Peace of mind at the only CCRC in West Hartford
2. Great location close to entertainment and cultural opportunities
3. Floorplan options to suit your personal style
4. No more cooking – fabulous chef-prepared meals
5. Friends and fun at your fingertips – activities, clubs and more

Learn more about The McAuley by scanning the QR code or call 860-920-6319.

THE MCAULEY
PART OF THE MERCY COMMUNITY
TheMcAuley.org • 860-920-6319
275 Steele Road • West Hartford, CT 06117

• INDEPENDENT LIVING
• ASSISTED LIVING
Founded by the Sisters of Mercy

Stocks of Local Interest							
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG. YTD %CHG	
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	17.66	-.02	-35.1	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	210.48	+2.88	-37.4
AT&T Inc (T)	23.91	+.68	-2.8	MetLife Inc (MET)	68.56	+2.34	+9.7
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	121.06	+4.45	-15.9	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	297.31	+2.72	-11.6
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.46	+.50	-2.8	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	.69	+.07	-86.8
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.85	+1.74	-12.1	Novartis AG (NVS)	87.63	+1.95	+2
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.02	+.07	-10.2	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	241.57	+4.09	-17.9
Apple Inc (AAPL)	164.85	+2.11	-7.2	Occid Petl (OXY)	38.74	-.18	+33.6
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.93	+1.54	-9.9	Opendoor Technol (OPEN)	8.44	-2.54	-42.2
Bank of America (BAC)	45.02	+1.42	+1.2	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	78.51	+1.92	-9.8
Barnes Group (B)	46.75	+.36	+.3	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	11.47	-.36	-37.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2281.46	-13.54	-4.9	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	110.94	+5.92	-41.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	68.80	+1.70	+10.3	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.17	+1.22	+18.8
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.30	+3.53	+1.1	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	47.72	+1.76	-19.2
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.10	+.47	+.9	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.91	+.12	-25.9
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	45.23	+.52	-16.6	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	112.80	+3.85	+4.2
Charter Commun (CHTR)	601.16	+14.57	-7.8	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.87	+2.55	-2.8
Cigna Corp (CI)	232.84	+8.41	+1.4	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	98.12	+3.87	+14.0
Citigroup (C)	61.98	+1.31	+2.6	Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.10	+.94	...
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	21.51	+2.11	-1.2	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	75.57	+1.48	-7.8
Clover Hlth Inv (CLOV)	2.52	+.07	-32.5	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	10.67	+.34	-32.5
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.07	+1.06	-6.3	Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	4.96	+.21	+6.4
Cyren Ltd (CYRN)	5.93	+1.18	+1.5	Square Inc (SQ)	119.82	+2.53	-25.8
Disney (DIS)	149.53	+.13	-3.5	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	161.89	+54.85	-14.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	116.95	+4.89	-8.2	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.95	+.47	-1.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.55	+.41	-2.8	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.51	-.01	-11.6
Eversource Energy (ES)	81.81	+2.09	-10.1	TAL Education Grp AD (TAL)	2.91	-.74	-26.0
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	77.84	+2.04	+27.2	Terex Corp (TEX)	41.68	+.91	-5.2
Foot Locker Inc (FL)	29.07	-12.34	-33.4	Travelers Cos (TRV)	173.44	+6.94	+10.9
Ford Motor (F)	17.83	+.68	-14.2	United Rentals (URI)	316.31	+7.99	-4.8
Freeport McMoran (FCX)	46.34	+2.62	+11.0	US Steel Corp (X)	26.91	+2.55	+13.0
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.28	+.02	+1.5	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	475.75	+19.86	-5.3
Gen Dynamics (GD)	227.98	+9.45	+9.4	Verizon Comm (VZ)	54.12	+1.53	+4.2
Gen Electric (GE)	96.37	+3.83	+2.0	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	248.25	+6.92	-16.4
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.74	+3.26	+2.5	Voya Financial (VOYA)	68.55	+3.40	+3.4
Honeywell Intl (HON)	188.56	+6.22	-9.6	Webster Financial (WBS)	59.91	+3.33	+7.3
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.41	+.23	-3.2	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1056.47	+18.64	+4.2
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.10	+.53	-1.9	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	58.60	+.31	+18.8
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.84	+.60	-9.8	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	71.75	+2.35	-7.3
Intel Corp (INTC)	47.71	+.99	-7.4	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.06	+.28	-11.4
IronNet Inc (IRNT)	6.11	+.91	+45.5	Yandex NV (YNDX)	18.94	-1.38	-68.7
Kaman (KAMN)	40.35	-1.67	-6.5	Zosano Pharma Corp (ZSAN)	.17	+.04	-64.0
Keycorp (KEY)	25.30	+1.17	+9.4	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	9.18	+.37	+43.4
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	69.13	+2.95	+1.3				
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	26.35	+1.07	-30.7				
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	45.12	+1.61	+.5				

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cut back on money spent on the military

The huge front page picture of doctors and nurses at St. Francis hospital welcoming Air Force doctors and nurses from a base in San Antonio [Feb. 11] is both welcoming and sad. Welcoming because the help must be desperately needed. Sad because our country and state has come to depend on a military that will suck \$788 billion dollars out of our federal budget this year, is promoted nonstop by mainstream media as feel-good patriotism, and both are very much supported by the efforts of my Catholic church. I bet we could do better if that money was spent on social programs and the Center for Disease Control to help prevent these viruses in the first place. But spending as we do on preparation for war, promoting it in the media, is sadly, for my kids and grandkids, where we are at.

Jim Brasile, Newington

Better off if Gore, Clinton had been president

In recent elections we've had two candidates who won the popular vote but didn't become president. We weren't happy with the result, but we moved on. There were no attempts to overthrow the government. Have you wondered what life might be like if those candidates had become president? If Al Gore had been president the climate might be back to taking more than 10,000 years to change, rather than less than 100. If Hilary Clinton had been our president, she would have listened to the professionals and we might be asking, "Pandemic, what's that?"

Alberta Mirer, Moodus

Republican Party has lost its way

The GOP has a choice: to follow the Constitution or follow Donald Trump. As we see from the RNC's recent censure of two of its own for serving on the Jan. 6 select committee, and the issuing of a resolution that says the insurrection was simply "legitimate political discourse," it is clear that the Law and Order party, the party of Lincoln, is being left by the wayside.

No one who watched the events of Jan. 6, 2021, would think that this was in any way legitimate political discourse. Law officers were attacked, injured and died. If they follow on their present track, winning will not be in their future. But then, maybe they need another loss for this to sink in.

Marilyn Waterbury, Wallingford

Appointees have no idea how Postal Service works

This is in response to Timothy O'Brien's article [Opinion, Feb. 11, "Congress may rescue US Postal Service from itself."] He, like most politicians, have no clue about how the Postal Service works. The postal system, unlike UPS or FedEx, has to deliver to every household in America. Many of these areas are not profitable. Could you imagine what the bottom line would be if the other delivery services had to prefund their retirements at the exorbitant rate the Postal Service has to? I have been retired from the Postal Service for 18 years. I remember in 2003 the post office was required to prefund \$10 billion a year when it was proved it should only prefund \$3 billion. Who knows where the \$7 billion went.

Members of the postal board of governors are political appointees and have no idea how the system works. Postal employees who are doing the work every day are very well-liked by the public at large, who just want their mail delivered every day.

David Krinjak, Manchester

Tax credits are no longer necessary

In response to the letter writer: "Spending tax credit to enrich child's life not wrong." I do agree that some expenses may seem more want than need. I'm not one to judge that area. I will, however, use this example to say that we certainly don't need more build-back-better tax credits if we are now looking at spending.

Bill Youngstrom, Simsbury

Parents should have worn masks at track championships

Shame on all those parents at the Class S indoor track and field championship on Feb. 12 at Hillhouse-New Haven who couldn't keep a mask over their face. The student-athletes are capable of wearing masks while not competing. Why couldn't the parents respect the rules of the facility? You made everyone less safe with your arrogance and your "the rules do not apply to me" selfishness. If we are to ever get out of this pandemic, people must care about community, not themselves.

Jenny Law, Higganum

Out-of-state mail delivery has been awful

My recent experiences with out-of-state mail delivery have been troubling. I sent one letter to New York on Jan. 10, which never arrived. I mailed a personal letter to Phoenix on Feb. 2, which has not arrived, and another on Feb. 10, which has not arrived. My bills come on time. I pay bills at least five-10 days early. I understand COVID problems, perhaps, but I cannot blame it all on COVID. The USPS has been poorly managed for years.

The Pony Express was faster.
Edith Offenhartz, Canton

OP-ED

State's attorney accountability system in need of an overhaul

By Claudine Fox

As the scandal regarding Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo's hiring of a then-Office of Policy Management official's daughter grows, it is increasingly clear that Connecticut needs structural changes to prevent prosecutorial misconduct.

The investigation into Colangelo's conduct reveals not just lapses in judgment from the most powerful prosecutor in the state, but shows symptoms of a state's attorney system that operates outside the bounds of democratic accountability. Whenever a powerful government official misbehaves, it is imperative for lawmakers to look at the systems that allowed that behavior to happen, and to take steps to prevent future harm.

To prevent possible prosecutorial misconduct in the future, Connecticut lawmakers need to establish meaningful ethics and accountability provisions for state's attorneys, starting with creating data-based performance evaluations of state's attorneys, establishing a task force to create statewide policies to prevent discrimination in prosecutors' practices, initiating independent oversight by moving the Criminal Justice Commission out of the Division of Criminal Justice and giving it its own robust budget, expanding the CJC's disciplinary power to include the chief state's attorney, and mandating a prosecutorial ethics policy in line with best practices.

In December 2020, according to the report from attorney Stanley Twardy, Colangelo told a top OPM official, in an email about state's attorneys' salaries, that he "might need it to keep them happy so they don't oppose me at reappointment." The fact that even the most powerful prosecutor in the state allegedly could see his reappointment as partly dependent on a popularity contest among other prosecutors, and the means to reappointment being greasing their palms, shows just how political the state's attorney system is.

The CJC, the entity tasked with state's attorney oversight, is housed within the Division of Criminal Justice — the agency it is meant to oversee — leaving it without independent resources to conduct investigations like that of the Twardy's report. In fact, it has to rely on a Division of Criminal Justice employee for its administrative support. State's attorneys, including the chief state's attorney, also do not face data-driven performance reviews to evaluate whether they are using their considerable power to pursue justice and not just convictions.

The CJC's powers to hold the chief state's attorney accountable are consid-



The hiring scandal surrounding Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo highlights the state's need to address prosecutorial misconduct, writes Claudine Fox of the ACLU. **FILE**

erably more limited than those it has for other state's attorneys — although even those powers are at risk in a system where prosecutors are too often left to their own devices.

The last time a state's attorney faced potential repercussions for misconduct, the cracks in Connecticut's system for holding them accountable were also laid bare. When then-Hartford State's Attorney Gail Hardy's reappointment was in jeopardy because of languishing police violence cases on her docket, Colangelo swooped in at the 11th hour, as the Criminal Justice Commission was considering its vote, to hire her into a position his office created out of thin air. The message was clear: if a state's attorney was about to be held to account, they could rest assured that the Division of Criminal Justice would protect its own by giving them a golden parachute, never mind the interests of people in that attorney's judicial district, grieving families, or the opinion of the CJC.

The state's prosecutorial oversight process hasn't changed much in decades, and the lack of accountability for state's attorneys has hurt Connecticut residents. One decade ago, looking at the same system we have today, independent researchers and even the state's own witnesses pointed out flaws that allowed astronomical racism to flourish in the use of the death penalty. "The pattern of arbitrary, capricious, and discriminatory decisions is not surprising to those who understand how Connecticut's death penalty works. Leaving so much discretion in the hands of 13 different state's attorneys invites this arbitrariness," according to a Stan-

ford University report.

Now, that same lack of accountability means we're at risk of seeing similar patterns and practices play out in other parts of the criminal legal system. Connecticut has been collecting data on state's attorneys' behavior for more than a year. That data already shows racial disparities in conviction rates in Connecticut, which the Division of Criminal Justice has attempted to explain away instead of looking at its own role in perpetuating them. It also shows wide geographical disparities. In some parts of Connecticut, for instance, people convicted of drug offenses are 2.4 times more likely to get prison sentences than in others. The facts tell the story: outcomes for people caught up in the justice system today still largely depend on where they are prosecuted, which, in a place where state's attorneys set the standards for their judicial districts, largely depends on the top prosecutor in charge.

Last year, Connecticut's legislature considered a bill that would have created first-step accountability systems for state's attorneys. The Division of Criminal Justice, led by Colangelo, loudly opposed it — all while Colangelo was seeking raises for state's attorneys. As we head into another legislative session, it is imperative that the legislature put an end to the current system in which cronyism among state's attorneys can too easily thrive, at the expense not only of government ethics, but of equity and fairness across our state. It's long past overdue.

Claudine Fox is the public policy and advocacy director of the ACLU of Connecticut.

OP-ED

Banning e-cigarettes ineffective

By Lindsey Stroud

After a lengthy battle last year, Connecticut's Democratic governor, Ned Lamont, is still supporting a ban on flavored e-cigarette vapor products.

While the initial ban came during a so-called public health outbreak, all of the proposals have featured support from anti-harm reduction groups who purport that banning e-cigarettes and flavored e-liquids will protect youth. If Connecticut lawmakers truly want to protect youth, they would understand that bans are ineffective and ultimately make the issue worse.

On Jan. 13, a 13-year-old student died from a fentanyl overdose at a magnet school in Hartford — just 1.5 miles from the State Capitol. During the investigation, police found 40 packages of powdered fentanyl in two classrooms and the school's gym and another 100 bags in the student's bedroom.

This is not an isolated incident. The day after the school reopened classes after sanitizing the school of any possible fentanyl, a 13-year-old in California died from what police described as an overdose. In August 2021, a 13-year-old Missouri boy died of a drug overdose during a sleepover at a 12-year-old friend's house. In the same month, in California, a 14-year-old girl died after overdosing on a pill laced with fentanyl.

Unfortunately for the parents and family members of these kids, there isn't much lawmakers can do, as prohibition of prescription drugs has allowed for an inflow of illicit drugs.

It's well known that prescription opioid abuse was the first wave of the opioid epidemic. After one company changed its prescription policies to reduce abuse, heroin use "nearly doubled" according to a 2012 study.

Between 2012 and 2014, the number of prescription opioids that were dispensed in the United States decreased by 5.6%, from 255.2 million to 241 million. Yet during the same time period, deaths from heroin overdose increased by 78.5%, and deaths due to fentanyl overdoses increased by 111%. In 2019, when



Banning e-cigarette and vapor flavors will only help fuel the black market, writes Lindsey Stroud, director of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance's Consumer Center. **FILE**

lawmakers were reacting to the spate of what was being called vaping-related lung injuries, despite actually being illicit vapes, 14,019 Americans died from a heroin overdose and another 36,359 died from fentanyl poisoning.

Many lawmakers used the so-called vaping injury epidemic in 2019 to justify bans on e-cigarette and vapor products. In fact, one sponsor of last year's flavor ban legislation called these products "deadly."

Ultimately, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified 68 vaping-related deaths, with the majority of those related to the use of black-market vapor products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in 2019, when 68 Americans died from using black market vaping products, another 3,391 Americans aged 15- to 24-years-old succumbed to an overdose attributed to heroin and/or other illicit opioids.

In Connecticut, in 2018, there were 948 opioid-involved deaths. According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, there were 1,372 fatal drug overdose deaths in the Constitution State — a 14.3% increase from 2019. Moreover, CDPH has identified 474 individuals aged 15- to 24-years-old who have died from an unintentional drug overdose between 2015 and 2021.

Given that overdose deaths are now becoming common among younger people, Connecticut lawmakers ought to rethink bans and focus on the real problem — and the real substances that are killing Americans in droves. Bans helped fuel America's overdose epidemic. E-cigarette and vapor flavor bans will only help the already-booming black market, ultimately harming the already-overburdened public health efforts.

Lindsey Stroud is a visiting fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and director of The Taxpayers Protection Alliance's Consumer Center.

To advertise, call 860-525-2525
or placeanad.courant.com

CTshopsHere
Buy. Sell. Save.



Stuff

Stuff



A&S KNIT AND STITCH
Quality Knitting
BASSINET White bassinet, \$50, 860-667-4026.



BLUESTONE! BLUESTONE!!
BLUESTONE!!!
Steps - Sidewalks Patios
We also repair existing steps /
sidewalks / patios
860-633-6612

FIREWOOD 2 cords \$390 includes
delivery, 1 cord, call for pricing 860-
228-2003

HOPSCOTCHBOUTIQUEOFCT.COM
Holland Lop Rabbits

INDY 500 TETHER CAR BY Testors
from 60's 89.00 860-993-7061

MICROWAVE Sunbeam 1.1 CU. FT.
1000 watts, \$65, 860-6674026

OSTRINSKY SCRAP Buyers of scrap.
Manchester, CT. 860-643-5879

TAG SALES

Tag Sales & Flea Markets

SIMSBURY ESTATE SALE
17 School House Lane Friday,
February 25 7am-3pm, & Saturday,
February 26, 8am-2pm
Sectional sofa(s) leather tufted
sofa/chair, queen/ king bedrooms
dining room/Kitchen sets, art, carpets,
collectible sports items, weights/
bench, crystal chandelier, high end
entertainment units, mirrors, tables,
chairs, lamps, love seats, outdoor
furniture, costume jewelry, household,
decorative, garage items. Everything

AT YOUR SERVICE

At Your Service

CALL MARKS AUTO PARTS
in East Granby. For more information
860-653-2551

Hartford
ELEVATOR
ELEVATOR SERVICE COMPANY
Maintenance, Repair, Modernization
Servicing All of Connecticut
Competitive Rates and Quality
Service
hartforelevator@yahoo.com
860-757-3960

CTshopsHere
Buy. Sell. Save.
courant.com/advertiser
860-525-2525

www.courant.com/pets

Pets
Adoption • News • Advice • More

Dogs



FRENCHIES Got two males color blue
5 weeks old nice structure pure
breed mom n dad in house contact
me at +18608907203 if interested
Thankyou

GOLDENDOODLE F1 Goldendoodle
puppies. First shots, dewormed and
two year health guarantee included.
Call/Text 203-558-6311

GOLDENDOODLES Gorgeous new
litter! Teddy bear puppies, Bwks
farm raised, shots, wormed. Parents
on site. Health Guarantee. \$2500
Call: 401-741-7717.



SHEDS BUILT ON SITE
built on site, rough Sawn lum-
ber, well built, full size lumber, shed
base included. Call for pricing: 860-
228-2003 ctshedsbuiltinonsite.com

SNOWBLOWER Craftsman, 21", 5 HP
electric start. \$300. 203-214-5232

SNOWBLOWER Ariens 24", 5HP \$300
electric start, serviced. 203-214-5232



STONE WALLS Walkways, natural
stone. We can break stone into usable
wall stone. Pavers, blue stone, patio,
fire pits.
Call 860-633-6612

SUMP PUMP True Value 1/3HP
Sump Pump, \$85, 860-6674026

TREE WORK Take down, yard expansion,
brush clearing & saw mill service.
Free written estimates & reasonable
rates. 860-228-2003

TRUCK BOX Truck box for a 6 Ft. bed
truck, \$65, 860-6674026

WANTED JAZZ & ROCK RECORDS by
collector Mike 860-573-8678

Wanted To Buy



1 BUY VINTAGE ELECTRONICS
OLD TOYS, MILITARY JEWELRY,
ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS, CAMERAS,
WATCHES, SIGNS, ART, SPORTS
MEMORABILIA, OLD STUFF,
ANTIQUES, GUITARS, AMPS, TUBE
HI-FI, RECEIVERS, AUDIO EQ,
RADIOS, HAM, CB, SAXOPHONES &
MANY OTHER OLD ITEMS!
CALL 860-707-9350

ALWAYS BUYING MACHINIST
TOOLBOXES Tools & tooling, contents
of machine shops, home worksho-
ps & small lathes Call 860-985-5760



ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF WANTED
Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Toys, Games,
Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry,
Pottery, Typewriters, Sewing Machines,
Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil
Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting,
Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396



BUYING OLD TOYS BEFORE 1990
Tonka, Matchbox, Hotwheels, Trains,
LEGOs, Star Wars, GI Joes, Nintendo,
Buddy L, Hubley, Slot Cars, Model Kits,
Atari, Coleco, Space Toys, Lunchboxes,
Western, Dolls, Wind Up, Cap Guns,
Action Figures, Robots, Friction Toys,
Transformers, Banks. 860-874-8396

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING



BUYING PRE1980 Toys, Model Kits,
Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters &
Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards,
Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station
Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry,
Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I
check Bsmnt/ Attic. 860-817-4350



PINBALL MACHINES - CASH PAID
We are looking to buy pinball
machines in any condition and will do
all moving. Call today! 860-986-4055

Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUNDED - Domestic Short Hair
Cat, Gray, M. Call West Hartford ACO:
860-570-8818

LOST CAT - Male, Gray Tiger Cat. 1
bottom canine is chipped. In Bristol.
860-816-6511

Real Estate

Rentals

WEST HARTFORD

WAITING LIST OPENING
THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for apartments located at 540 New
Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110.
Eligibility for these units is subject to
household income limits and other
eligibility criteria under the federal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
(LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum
Income Limits:

- 1 PERSON - \$43,860
- 2 PERSONS - \$50,100
- 3 PERSONS - \$56,340
- 4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Rents will range from approximately
\$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and
\$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit
depending on household income level
(prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply
between February 16, 2022 and May
17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may
apply by:

- Submitting a pre-application online
at www.540NewPark.com; or
- Requesting a paper pre-application
be mailed to the applicant, which
must be returned by mail to
**ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New
Park** Waitlist 80 Shield Street, West
Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark
date between February 16, 2022 and
May 10, 2022, and received no later
than May 17, 2022; or
- Requesting an appointment during
the application period if assistance
is needed to complete the pre-
application. Please note: Assistance
with completing the application will
be offered by appointment ONLY due
to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a
Reasonable Accommodation, please
call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family
will be accepted; duplicate pre-
applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible
through any computer, tablet or smart
phone. After successfully completing
the pre-application, you may print the
confirmation of successful completion
of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will
use a Random-Draw Lottery System to
determine the waiting list order from
all applications.

The Residences at 540 New Park
does not discriminate in admission or
access to its housing or programs. Any
eligible individual with disabilities will
be served. Those who have visual or
hearing impairments will be provided
with the necessary information to
understand and participate in the
program. Efforts will be coordinated to
comply with the nondiscrimination
requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
This is an equal opportunity housing
development. www.540NewPark.com

Auto & SUV's

HYUNDAI SONATA 2002 - \$1,000
OBO. White 4dr sedan, runs good,
needs work. 860-896-0546

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS 2015
\$27499.00 Beautiful Mint!!! 2015
Mercedes Benz E350 8605188587

**Antiques/
Classics**

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
209-6629

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID

for any Toyota, other makes. Any
condition. Running or not, crashed
okay. Will take other makes and
models. 203-600-4431

Car Reviews

Saturdays in
MOTORING

CTshopsHere
Buy. Sell. Save.

courant.com/advertiser • 860-525-2525

FLAVOR

**See what's cookin'.
Every Thursday.**



tribune publishing
recruitment services

Stop wasting time searching for jobs.
Find the right jobs with tribune publishing
recruitment services

**YOUR
PERFECT
JOB
IS WAITING**

We work hard to make your job search easy.
With our expansive network of distinguished
employers from coast to coast and advanced
job matching technology, you'll find opportunities
that match your skills, your personality and
your life.

**Search jobs. Post your resume.
Stand out from the crowd.**

courant.com/jobs

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

LEGAL NOTICE
West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100,
Bloomfield, CT
Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March
01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive com-
ments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-
2023 Health District budget. Copies may be
obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield
Health District office or on the Health
District's website, www.westhartford.gov/
health. The public hearing will be conducted
exclusively as a virtual public hearing in
accordance with Governor Lamont's execu-
tive orders regarding the conduct of public
meetings and proceedings.
Any interested person(s) may participate in
the public hearing by calling at the scheduled
date and time and using the following access
code:
March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting
ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592
Access Code: 323515
Participants using caller ID blocking will not
be permitted to participate. Participants will
be muted upon entry into the public hearing
and only unmuted once prompted by the
Chair/Moderator.
2/15/2/26/22 7143536

Car Reviews

Saturdays in
MOTORING

CTshopsHere
Buy. Sell. Save.

courant.com/advertiser
860-525-2525

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS**

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to: John Doe, father of male child
born on 6/24/2019 to Jackelyn G. in the
town of New Britain, CT
of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private or public agency or a suitable and
worthy person.

Termination of parental rights of the above
named in minor child(ren).

The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any,
regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on:
3/24/2022 at 2:30 p.m., at 20 Franklin Sq.
3rd Floor, New Britain CT 06051.

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on: 3/4/2022 at 11:00 a.m.
at 20 Franklin Sq. 3rd Floor, New Britain CT
06051.

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the: Hartford Courant, a newspa-
per having a circulation in the town/city of:
Hartford, CT.

Judge: Hon. Carl E. Taylor
Signed: Peter Fradani, Deputy Clerk
Date signed: 2/24/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
2/26/2022 7158673

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space
Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy
the lien of the owner, personal property de-
scribed below belonging to those individuals
listed below at location indicated:
ExtraSpace Storage, 56 Pameacha Ave.,
Middletown, CT 06457 860-575-7610 March
9, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Daniel Nielsen
Unit# 3158
Household, tools

James Leary
Unit# 4080
Household

The auction will be listed and advertised on
www.storageasures.com. Purchases
must be made with cash only and paid at the
above referenced facility in order to complete
the transaction. Extra Space Storage may
refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase
up until the winning bidder takes possession
of the personal property.
2/26/2022 7158036

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

THE GLASTONBURY ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING
ON MONDAY MARCH 7, 2022 AT 7:00 PM.
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE TO HEAR THE
FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

1. By Gregory S. Hester for a variance from
Section 4.2.7 to allow a deck to be construct-
ed closer to the side yard than permitted at
41 Paddock Lane in Rural Residence zone.

2. By Kelcie Reid for a variance from Section
4.2.7 to allow a 2 car attached garage and
mudroom to be constructed closer to the
side yard than permitted 806 Hopewell Road
in Rural Residence zone.
2/26/2022 7158297

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living



**YOUR PERFECT
HIRE
IS WAITING**

Stop wasting time searching for talent.
Find the right talent with tribune publishing
recruitment services.

**Extend your reach.
Access customized technology.
Simplify your search.**

courant.com/jobs



tribune publishing
recruitment services

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bristol
Michael F. Butler
Robert R. Leone*
Ashley B. Sandino

East Hartford
Jacinta Gruss

Hartford
Michael A. Broad

New Britain
Klara Komorowski

Newington
Klara Komorowski

Other Towns in CT
Robert G. Schultz, Jr.

Simsbury
Lea Ann Gostyla

South Windsor
Michael A. Broad
Marjorie Glater

Southington
Gemma Parent
Carolyn Smith

West Hartford
Marjorie Glater

Windsor
Lea Ann Gostyla

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Broad, Michael A.




Michael A. Broad, 71, of South Windsor, CT passed away February 19, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital after a long battle with cancer. He spent his last days surrounded by his loving family. Mike was born September 27, 1950 in Hartford, CT, graduated from Bulkeley High School in 1968 and enlisted in the Army. He served two tours of duty with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam for which he was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. As a Sergeant, he subsequently received the Good Conduct Medal as a squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry of the 3rd Armored Division in Germany. He was employed for many years at Knolls Lab in Windsor and J C Penney Warehouse, Manchester, as manager of security. He is predeceased by his parents Kenneth L. Broad and Mary (Mudryk) Broad and his brother Edward McDonald of Englewood, FL. Mike is survived by his wife of 45 years Rosemary (Casella) whom he married in October 1977, his son Jeremy and grandson Tyler, all of South Windsor, CT. Mike leaves behind his brother, Kenneth Broad and his wife Julia of Colchester, CT, his sister Valerie Kress of Houston, TX, his sister-in-law Carol McDonald of Englewood, FL and many nephews and nieces. Mike was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a kind and gentle man loved by all those around him. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandson Tyler. Being "Bumpa" the true joy of his life. The family would like to thank St. Francis Cancer Center and Masonicare for their compassion and excellent care. His family will receive friends at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home at 419 Buckland Rd. South Windsor, on Monday, February 28, 2022 from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon. Following which, there will be a brief interment service with Military Honor at Cedar Hill Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com




CARMON
Community Funeral Homes
Funerals • Cremation • PrePlanning • Receptions
www.carmonfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Butler, Michael F.




Michael F. Butler, 66, of Bristol, beloved husband of JoAnne (Vanesse) Butler, died on Wednesday (February 23, 2022) at home surrounded by family. Mike was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on March 22, 1955 and was one of six children of the late James T. and Virginia Helen (Green) Butler. He was raised in Terryville and attended Terryville High School. He worked in manufacturing at New Departure and O/Z Gedney before embarking on a career as a bank teller with Savings Bank of Manchester, New Alliance, and Key Banks. He loved cooking for his family and friends as he was a wonderful cook and entertainer. He enjoyed reading, traveling, and the beach. He also enjoyed gardening and watching the many birds that visited his feeders and bird houses. He was a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, Forestville. In addition to his wife of 47 years, Mike is survived by two children: Stephen Butler and wife, Samantha of Plymouth, and Amanda Hill and wife, Ryan of Bristol; two brothers: James Butler and wife, Sandra, and Philip Butler, all of Bristol; a sister: Julie Tardi and husband, Leo of Michigan; six grandchildren: Madison, Taylor, Olivia, Kaylynne, Keelie, and Amelia; several nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog, Comet. He was predeceased by two sisters: his twin, Michele Embelton and Joyce Francis. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday (March 4, 2022) at 10 AM at St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave., Bristol. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends may call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, on Thursday between 5 and 7 PM. Please visit Mike's memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.



Funk's Since 1865
www.FunkFuneralHome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Komorowski, Klara




Klara Barbara Komorowski of Newington and longtime resident of New Britain departed this life for her eternal rest on February 22, 2022 after a valiant battle with a prolonged illness. Klara was born in Poland on September 2, 1926 to the Uszczenko Family. She lived through and survived World War II, taking her to Germany, then life in England and Canada before settling in her "fifth and best country, America." In good times and in hard, dancing was her hobby and passion. She met her dance partner and husband, Jerzy, in Germany. Klara attended Holy Cross and Holy Spirit Churches. She was employed by CCSU for many years. A loving, devoted mother, wonderful homemaker, she will be dearly missed by her daughter Christine, son Edmund, nephew Jerzy Stepniewski, and angel and caregiver, Linda Santos. She was predeceased by her sisters Janina and Zofia, and caregiver Barbara Galkiewicz. Many thanks to her special caregivers and nursing staff at Bel-Air Manor. If you would like to honor Klara's memory, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/donate. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church Street, Newington at 11:30am. The family invites friends to visit before the mass from 11:00-11:30 at the church. A private burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Enfield. If you would like to honor Klara's memory, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/donate. New Britain Memorial & Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Avenue, New Britain has been entrusted with arrangements. For an online memorial, please visit www.NewBritainSagarino.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES


Gruss, Jacinta




JACINTA GRUSS, nee Camacho, 85, winged her way to heaven this past Saturday, February 19, 2022, surrounded by her family. Jacinta was born September 3, 1936 at San Felipe, Guanajuato, Mexico the daughter of Leocadio Guadalupe Camacho and Sinforosa Frias. She was the oldest daughter of nine children. She came to the United States in the mid 1960's. After returning to her home for a short period, Jacinta returned to America in 1967, settling in Chicago. She married her husband, Harry, on March 16, 1968 at Benton Harbor, Michigan moving to the Hartford area in 1968. Jacinta was a member of the Eucharistic Missionaries of Saint Theresa for several years, during which time she worked at various seminars doing laundry and preparing meals for the seminarians. She also worked as a nurse's aide in Chicago and Michigan. However her greatest profession was that of wife and mother, a task to which she devoted all of her time and energy. Jacinta loved to garden having a large rose garden and several smaller patches of flowers. Dancing, singing, shopping and going to tag sales were her favorite pastimes. Her favorite Mexican artists were Juan Gabriel and Ana Barbara. Having taught herself English she enjoyed reading mystery and romance novels. She would draw and color with her children and grandchildren. Her parents, four brothers Magdaleno, Modesto, Eleuterio, and Enrique, one sister, Carmen, preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, Harry, her three children, Harry Jr. and his wife Kara, Cynthia, and Patrick and his wife Morgan, as well as, five grandchildren, Carlye, Nathanael, Seraphina, Kassandra and Alessandra, along with many pets. Calling hours for Jacinta will be held Sunday, February 27, 2022 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108. A Mass of Christian Burial will occur Monday, February 28, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Saint Rose Church, 33 Church St, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108. A Committal service will occur Monday, February 28, 2022 at 11:15 AM at Silver Lane Cemetery, 1280 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.NewkirkandWhitney.com for the Gruss family.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Gostyla, Lea Ann (Juhan)




Lea Ann (Juhan) Gostyla, of Bloomfield beloved wife of Thomas Gostyla, passed away on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital at the age of 67. She was born in Macon, GA on June 27, 1954, to the late Marianne Juhan. Tom and Lea Ann were married in 1989 and raised their family in Bloomfield and Simsbury. Lea worked as a registered nurse for over forty years, in the United States Army, schools, and operating rooms. She was employed for a short time at St. Francis Hospital, Bloomfield High School, and the Nursing Director at Westminster School. She finally worked and retired from Uconn Health Center, where she left behind an unforgettable legacy working alongside Dr. HP Makkar, in Dermatology and as his lead surgical nurse. She lived and worked with passion to care for others and wore her heart on her sleeve which was evident to all who got close to her. She was a loving wife, mother, Yaya, and friend. Lea Ann is survived by her loving husband, Thomas Gostyla, two daughters, Whitney Gostyla, and her daughter, Keeley of Bloomfield and Claire Rotchford and her husband Joseph and their children, Aurora and Duncan Rotchford of Gales Ferry. She also leaves her brother, William "Mac" Juhan and his wife Pennie of Macon, GA, and Tony Juhan of El Paso, TX; Ashley Hargrove of IL who she considered to be family. She has many devoted friends and extended family members who will miss her dearly. Lea will greatly be missed and has surely already began organizing things up above to meet her standards. Relatives and friends may join the family for a visitation from 2 to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 26 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will be private. Memorial donations in Lea Ann's memory may be made to the Joan C. Dauber Food Pantry at St. Francis Hospital. If you would like to donate food, please call 860-714-2845 or if you would like to make a monetary donation please visit, <https://giving.saintfrancisdonor.com/?pid=1234> and choose "Joan C. Dauber Food Pantry" as the Area of Care. For online expressions of sympathy please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Glater, Marjorie (Bland)



Marjorie Bland Glater, 78, passed away at home in the presence of her family after a brief battle with cancer. Born on November 4, 1943, to Sylvia and Martin Bland, Marge grew up in West Hartford, CT. She was an active member of the Beth David Synagogue community. Marge graduated from Hall High School in 1961 and the University of Hartford in 1965. She married her love, Bill Glater, and began her teaching career in a third grade classroom in Hartford. She and Bill raised their family in South Windsor, CT. In 1974, Marge and her dear friend, Sandie Kerns, opened Mother Goose Nursery School in South Windsor. Over the next 44 years, their little school grew into Mother Goose Children's Center, Inc. She dedicated herself to the school and valued the many relationships she formed over the years. Marge drew people in with her smile, compassion, and goodness. She was committed to early childhood education through her work as a validator for the NAEYC and as president of the HAEYC for many years. In recognition of Marge's work for HAEYC, she was honored with the "Woman of Valor" award. Marge worked vigorously on the committee to rebuild the elementary schools in South Windsor. She was happiest spending time with her friends and family, especially her grandchildren, and looked forward to attending their school and sporting events, musicals, plays, and concerts. Marge loved her trips to New Hampshire and her drives with Bill all over New England. Marge is survived by her husband of 57 years, Bill Glater; daughters Rachel Robie and Amy Mondschein and sons-in-law Chris Robie and Henry Mondschein. She was the proud and adoring Bubby to Sophie and Noah Robie and Aron and Sima Mondschein. Marge is also survived by her brother, Alan Bland, and sister-in-law, Lorri Bland; "brother" Howard Segal; "sister" Helen Kaufman and her husband Philip and nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. Funeral services will be on Monday, February 28, 11:00 a.m. at Beth David Synagogue, 20 Dover Road, West Hartford, CT, with interment at Beth David Cemetery, Wethersfield, CT. The family will be observing a private shiva. Donations may be made in Marge's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries



Don't let
the story
go untold.

Share your loved
one's story.

placeanad.courant.com/obituaries



Hartford Courant
media group

In partnership with

Legacy.com



Stories live on.
Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.

placeanad.courant.com/obituaries



Hartford Courant
media group

In partnership with

Legacy.com

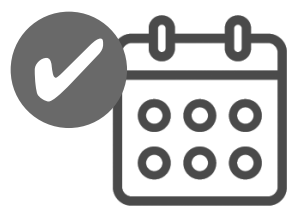
Advertise

1-2-3

it's that easy!

- ✓ Selling an item
- ✓ Hiring an employee
- ✓ Celebrating a loved one
- ✓ Announcing an event

1



Schedule

2



Layout

3



Review & Submit

**Self-Service Print and Online
Display and Classified Ads
See Your Options:**

Visit: placeanad.tribpub.com



Chicago Tribune	Hartford Courant	Daily Press
THE MORNING CALL	THE BALTIMORE SUN	The Virginian-Pilot
Orlando Sentinel	SOUTH FLORIDA SunSentinel	



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-917-1990

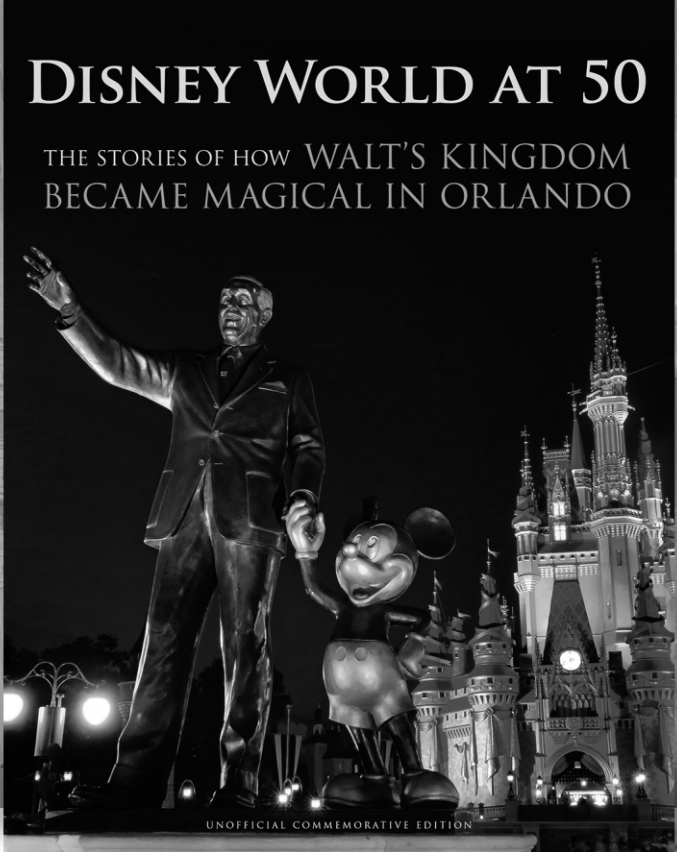


FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer – Call for Details


Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Disney World at 50

Celebrate the rich and fascinating history of Disney World with this stunning retrospective, featuring original coverage and over 100 photos from our archives.



Shop now at
tribpub.com/disneybook
or call (866) 545-3534

It Heats!

Pick Your Coldest Room

Heat It For Less Than **\$90/mo***

Then Warm Another Room – FREE!!!

Take The Daniels Energy 2 Room Challenge



**Buy One Mitsubishi Electric Ductless Split
Pay For One Head – Get The 2nd – FREE!**

Heat One Big Room Or Two Smaller Rooms

IT'S NOT A MISPRINT.
IT'S NOT A COME-ON
IT'S DANIELS ENERGY'S

.99%_{apr} – 10Yr. Financing Offer*

Plus Get Up To: \$500 Energize CT Rebate

Daniels 12-Year Mitsubishi Elite Contractor Warranty

Daniels Energy is offering the perfecting heating solution for two rooms – when breaking down walls to install ducts is not an option. Mitsubishi Electric Ductless Systems are flexible, improve indoor air quality, save you money – cool you in summer – and warm you in winter! And they can be installed in one day

Call Daniels Energy Today
860.813.9105





Project Cost: \$10,800 Maximum Loan Term: 120 Mos. Loan Amount: \$9,720.00 Down Payment: \$1,080.00. Monthly Payment: \$85.11. *Offer is for one standard compressor unit and two standard Mitsubishi Ductless Split head units. EnergizeCT offers an immediate consumer rebate of up to \$500 depending on equipment selected. Minimum size restriction and SEER ratings apply. Not available on previous sales. See Daniels Energy representative for complete details. Primary Mitsubishi offer ends: June 30, 2022 Daniels Energy: CT License S1-385517 HOD#19 / Daniels Propane. LLC: #846 CT License S1-302857

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Emissions proposal up for debate

Lamont’s plan to formalize zero-carbon electric supply target by 2040 has lawmakers divided

By **Eliza Fawcett and Alex Putterman**
Hartford Courant

State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes Thursday sparred with legislators over a proposal to formalize Connecticut’s goal of achieving statewide zero-carbon electric supply by 2040.

Dykes and Gov. Ned Lamont

argue that codifying the 2040 target — which was first established by Lamont in 2019 and later included in DEEP’s 2020 Integrated Resource Plan — would help Connecticut fully transition its electric grid from relying on gas and oil.

“We believe it would be a great thing for Connecticut to see this enacted into law because it sets a clear planning goal,” Dykes said Thursday at a hearing.



Dykes

Lamont

Some members of the General Assembly’s Energy and Technology Committee, however, questioned how realistic the target would be, particularly given that Connecticut has not met other emissions targets.

The proposed legislation, S.B. No. 10, would codify that by Jan. 1, 2040, Connecticut must achieve a zero-carbon electric supply. The target would stand in addition to previous goals of a 10% reduction in the state’s 1990 level of emissions by 2020, a 45% reduction by 2030 and a 80% reduction by 2050.

“We’ve already made great progress in decarbonizing our grid, but we need to make sure we get the rest of the way there,” Lamont said in a statement Thursday, adding that the codification would “provide critical direction”

to DEEP, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and utilities across the state.

Connecticut is not on track to meet its current emissions reduction targets, as DEEP acknowledged last fall. To achieve its goals, the state must decrease emissions in its transportation and building sectors by about 30% between now and 2030. Dykes noted last October that while Connecticut had seen reductions in its electric power sector, it has seen modest increases in those two sectors.

Turn to Carbon, Page 3

Putin slammed in New Haven

Professor: Threats hinting of nuclear weapons ‘unthinkable’

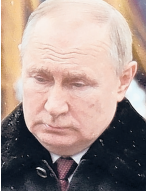
By **Joe Dwinell**
Boston Herald

For nuclear disarmament gurus, Vladimir Putin’s chilling pronouncement that “consequences never seen” will befall any country standing in his way is a Cold War nightmare.

President Biden was pressed on the threat of nuclear weapons being used by Russian forces invading Ukraine, but he deflected Thursday, instead stressing new sanctions.

But Putin even hinting at the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons is “dystopian,” said Howard Stoffer, a University of New Haven professor and nuclear arms control veteran.

“I was enraged when I read what Putin said,” Stoffer told the Boston Herald Thursday. “A quote like that saying he’s willing to risk the whole planet for some kind of advantage is unthinkable. He has to be brought to justice in The Hague for making that threat.”



Putin

Stoffer, a former State Department official who was on the now-defunct Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, said Putin’s rhetoric has erased decades of progress.

“Nuclear weapons are unthinkable to use, except in response to in use against you,” he said. “To use them in an offensive way is a criminal act. Where does this man draw the line? ... We thought the world moved away from that, but we’re moving backward.”

Kirk Lippold, the former commander of the USS Cole who is an adjunct professor at the

Turn to Nuclear, Page 2



A snowplow clears UConn Road in Mansfield on Friday after a snowstorm dropped up to 7 inches in the area. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

Sunny respite on the way

After wintry mix, weekend expected to bring sunshine, slightly warmer temps

By **Jesse Leavenworth**
Hartford Courant

After a carpet of snow, followed by freezing rain and sleet, made travel hazardous for a time Friday, it is expected to be sunny today and Sunday, with a high temperature near 33 today and a high near 40 degrees on Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

There was much less snow Friday morning than initially forecast, meteorologist Gary Lessor said, because of the changeover to sleet and freezing rain, which continued into the early afternoon. Sleet is precipitation that melts aloft and refreezes on the way down, forming ice pellets. Freezing rain is liquid water that freezes on contact with the

ground.

Lessor, chief meteorologist at Western Connecticut State University’s Weather Center, listed varied accumulations throughout the state, including: Coventry, 2.5 inches; Farmington, 2.8; Southington, 3.5; Rockville section of Vernon, 2.9; West Hartford, 3; East Windsor 5.1; Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, 4.7; Norfolk, 4.8 inches; and .015 inches of ice in Bridgeport.

While road conditions were slick, state police responded to around 40 accidents with no serious injuries and “minor in nature,” Trooper First Class Sarah Salerno said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com



With snow turning to a wintry mix then drizzle, Victor Chach walks past the UConn polo arena after clearing its sidewalk Friday.

Gutted businesses weighing the future

Plaza in Bristol destroyed by devastating blaze

By **Susan Dunne**
Hartford Courant

BRISTOL — Business owners whose locations were destroyed in an early-morning fire on Main Street in Bristol on Thursday say they will rebuild, they just don’t know where yet.

At 1:20 a.m. a fire gutted Mafales Plaza, which was home to Crystal Diner, Vivaldi Pizza, Marty’s Package Store, Main Street Laundromat and the Dance Experience.

All the businesses were closed at the time and no one was hurt in the blaze. It is being investigated by the Bristol Fire Department. Chief Richard Hart said Friday’s snowstorm slowed down the investigation.

Krishna Naha, who with his wife, Purnima, has owned Crystal Diner since June 2019, said his landlord, Richard Lemieux, called

him at 3:30 a.m. on Thursday to tell him the news.

“I got out of bed and ran. It’s a seven-minute drive from home,” Naha said Friday. “When I saw it, my heart stopped. I couldn’t stand up. My wife held me and told me to calm down.”

He and Purnima have spent the last two days in disbelief. “She is now the same way I was. All the time the last two days, she’s asking, what do we do now? We have no idea,” he said.

The fire comes at the end of two tough years for Naha. “Since the pandemic started, daily it’s been hard to keep open the business. It’s been a struggle with financials. I cut everybody’s hours. My family helped me out also to keep it open,” he said.

Naha said if the plaza is rebuilt, he would like to open the diner again in the same location, 43



Crystal’s Diner is one of the businesses destroyed in a fire on Main Street in Bristol on Thursday. **BRISTOL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Main St. But that decision is out of his hands.

Hart said the dance studio, at 53 Main St., and laundromat, at 49 Main St., suffered less damage than the other businesses, primarily smoke and water damage. Nonetheless, the building has been

Turn to Fire, Page 2

West Hartford schools chief set to step down

Superintendent Tom Moore taking job in Illinois

By **Don Stacom**
Hartford Courant

After eight years as superintendent of West Hartford schools, Tom Moore is leaving to take charge of two high schools serving several Chicago suburbs.

Moore notified parents Friday morning that he’s leaving at the end of the school year.

“Now it is time for me to move on. I believe that most leadership has a shelf life, and eight years as superintendent of West Hartford schools is the right timeline for me,” Moore wrote in an email to parents.

“I also believe that we have a very short life span to do as much as we can, to help as many people as we can, and to positively affect the lives of those that we come in contact with,” he wrote.



Moore

Moore, 52, was named Connecticut’s superintendent of the year for 2021, and last week was in Nashville for an awards ceremony hosted by the national association of school chiefs.

West Hartford’s school board did not immediately set a schedule for how it will seek a new superintendent.

Moore started his career in 1996 as a student teacher at Hall High School, and soon afterward became a history teacher at Conard High School. He served as Conard’s principal from 2007 to 2010 and then was promoted to an assistant superintendent’s job.

The school board appointed him in mid-2014 as superintendent to run its 16 schools. Moore said he’s proud of what the district

Turn to Moore, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

11 women, 11 men nominated for Superior Court

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

Gov. Ned Lamont nominated 11 men and 11 women as judges of the Superior Court on Thursday, continuing a push for equity on a trial bench that has inched closer to gender parity.

Two decades after law schools achieved parity in their student bodies, the trial court in Connecticut is 54% male and 46% female, with 127 judges. The system is authorized to have 185 judges.

“Our court system works the best when it reflects the diversity, experience and understanding of the people who live here,” Lamont said.

Fourteen of the 22 were drawn from the public sector: seven are state or federal prosecutors, four are public defenders, one is an assistant attorney general and two are on legal staffs at the Capitol. The rest are in private practice.

About 30% of the judges of the Superior, Appellate and Supreme courts are racial minorities.

The class of 22 nominees is only his second since taking office three years ago.

The nominees, who face confirmation by the General Assembly, are:

■ Alyce Alfano, 59, of Suffield. Alfano graduated from the

University of Pennsylvania and the UCLA School of Law. She is a partner at Shipman & Goodwin.

■ Stephanie Damiani, 45, of North Haven. Damiani graduated from Providence College and the Quinnipiac School of Law. She is a senior state’s attorney in New Haven.

■ Eric Daniels, 59, of Glastonbury. Daniels graduated from Brown University and Boston College Law School. He is a partner at Robinson & Cole.

■ Robert Golger, 60, of Trumbull. Golger graduated from Northeastern University and Suffolk University Law School. He practices at the law firm of Russo & Rizio in Fairfield.

■ Maria del Pilar Gonzalez, 34, of Guilford. Gonzalez graduated from Quinnipiac University and the Quinnipiac School of Law. She is a federal prosecutor and former state prosecutor.

■ Christopher Griffin, 39, of Glastonbury. Griffin graduated from Central Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is the deputy assistant state’s attorney with the New Britain State’s Attorney’s Office.

■ Wendy Grispin, 55, of Danbury. Grispin graduated from Western Connecticut State University and the

Pace University School of Law. She is a member of Grispin & Chan.

■ Jassette Ann-Marie Henry, 55, of Hebron. Henry graduated from St. John’s University and Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She is a senior assistant public defender in New Britain.

■ Scott M. Jones, 55, of Hamden. Jones graduated from the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a public defender in New Haven.

■ Tara Knight, 56, of New Haven. Knight graduated from Fairfield University and Suffolk University Law School. She is founding partner at Knight & Cerritelli and past president of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Attorneys Association.

■ Elizabeth Leaming, 54, of Hebron. Leaming graduated from Colgate University and Catholic University Columbus School of Law. She is a supervisory assistant state’s attorney in Windham.

■ Erik T. Lohr, 52, of Granby. Lohr graduated from Thomas A. Edison State College and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is chief of the Civil Litigation Division within the Connecticut Attorney General’s Office.

■ Christine Perra Rapillo, 56, of Cheshire. Perra Rapillo graduated from Wheaton College and the

University of Connecticut School of Law. She has been chief public defender since 2017.

■ Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, 41, of Hamden. Phoenix-Sharpe graduated from Florida A&M University with a B.S. and M.B.A. and from Pace University School of Law. She is general counsel to Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and a former deputy corporation counsel for New Haven.

■ Charles Reed, 58, of Hamden. Reed graduated from Northwestern University and Notre Dame Law School. He is managing partner at Loughlin FitzGerald and former president of the New Haven County Bar Association.

■ Mary Elizabeth Reid, 54, of Stamford. Reid graduated from the University of Massachusetts and Quinnipiac School of Law. She is the supervisory assistant public defender in Norwalk.

■ John F. Riley, 58, of Hamden. Riley graduated from the University of Connecticut and obtained his law degree from the University of Bridgeport. He is a trial attorney with Moore, O’Brien and Foti in Middlebury.

■ Amir Shaikh, 44, of Tolland. Shaikh graduated from Georgetown University and American University, Washington College of Law. He is a partner at Kaufmann & Shaikh.

■ Kevin M. Shay, 47, of Old Saybrook. Shay graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a senior assistant state’s attorney in Middletown and a special assistant U.S. attorney.

■ Neeta Vatti, 53, of Cheshire. Vatti graduated from the University of Connecticut and Albany Law School. She is legal counsel and policy analyst for Connecticut Senate Democrats.

■ Joseph Vizcarrondo III, 43, of Wilton. Vizcarrondo graduated from Wesleyan University and Columbia Law School. He is an assistant U.S. attorney in Connecticut.

■ Matthew Weiner, 43, of Hartford. Weiner graduated from Amherst College and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a prosecutor in the appellate bureau of the Chief State’s Attorney’s office.

Lamont also announced two lawyers as family court magistrates: ■ Michael C. Daley, 64, of Farmington. Daley graduated from Trinity College and Western New England University School of Law.

■ Ramona Mercado-Espinoza, 64, of West Hartford. Mercado-Espinoza graduated from Central Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Meriden gang member convicted of murder for gunning down rival

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A state jury has convicted a Meriden gang member of murder and related crimes for gunning down a rival in a hotel parking lot almost two years ago.

New Haven State’s Attorney Patrick J. Griffin said the jury in New Haven found Trevor Outlaw, 35, guilty of shooting to death Giovanni Rodriguez, 24, of Meriden in the predawn hours of June 21, 2020, in the parking lot of the Comfort Inn & Suites hotel on

East Main Street.

In addition to murder, Outlaw was convicted of carrying a pistol without a permit and criminal possession of a firearm.

In the past, Outlaw has been convicted of assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, failure to appear and possession of narcotics with intent to sell.

Prosecutors presented the jury with evidence that Outlaw and an accomplice were alerted by an associate that Rodriguez was in the hotel parking lot. That evidence showed that Outlaw,

who was in the passenger seat in a slow moving car, opened fire on Rodriguez with a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun as Rodriguez unloaded items from his car, according to authorities.

“Mortally wounded by the gunfire, Rodriguez attempted to flee on foot, ultimately collapsing near the hotel entrance door,” Griffin said.

Prosecutors said the slaying was the result of conflict between rival gangs.

Outlaw is scheduled to be sentenced on May 26.



Vivaldi’s Pizza and Marty’s Package Store are two of the businesses destroyed in a fire on Main Street in Bristol on Thursday. COURTESY

Fire

from Page 1

declared condemned, according to the city’s Chief Building Official Richard Brown. Brown recommends demolition or restoration — the foundation is intact — but said that decision is between the building owner and insurance company and probably will take months.

Andi Lalaj, who is district manager for Vivaldi’s, said she also would like to reopen in the same place — 45 Main St. — or nearby, to serve that area of Bristol. Vivaldi’s has four other locations: in Avon, Southington, Newington and a second location in Bristol.

Lalaj said she heard, soon after the fire started, that there was a possible fire on Main Street. She checked the feed from the restaurant’s cameras and noticed that they were not working.

“I ran there. I live just down the street. I was the first one to see the fire,” she said. “I saw the building burn to the ground and collapse. I stayed there until 5:30 and then left because there was nothing I

could do.

“I cried,” she said. “I have a lot of memories in that location.”

Like Naha, Lalaj is waiting to find out if the plaza will be rebuilt before deciding where to open the new Vivaldi’s. “We are definitely opening another one in that area, but not for a while,” she said.

Marci Aldi, director of The Dance Experience, said on Friday that she is “devastated” and will start looking soon for a new permanent location, after the busy dance competition season ends.

Members of the local dance community already have stepped up to help, she said.

“Probably two dozen studios have offered assistance. ... All the Bristol studios have offered and others from all over the state,” she said. “We’re just trying to sort through offers and see what works best with our dance family.”

A Gofundme, with a goal of \$10,000, was started to help the dance school recover from the tragedy.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Police respond to Torrington High protest

Associated Press

Police responded to a Connecticut high school as a precaution as students protested a new policy that will require their cellphones to be locked during the school day.

Fire alarms were pulled this week at Torrington High School, prompting officials to cancel classes for the rest of the day and send students home early. No arrests were reported, but school officials said students who violated the code of conduct will be disciplined.

The local school board approved the new policy on Wednesday night, citing a need to curb student

distractions, after students, teachers and parents expressed concerns, the Republican-American reported.

Under the policy, all middle and high school students will have to put their cellphones in special pouches and swipe them at a kiosk that will activate magnetic locks on the pouches. They will swipe them again as they leave the schools to unlock their phones. The policy is expected to be implemented after the April vacation.

Some students who were upset at the school board’s decision gathered Thursday morning in Torrington High School’s auditorium to express their opposition,

school officials said in a statement. A Facebook video shows an administrator trying to take a microphone away from a student. Fire alarms were later pulled at the school.

“We do not condone any disruption to the educational environment,” Superintendent of Schools Susan Lubomski said in a statement. “Students who acted in violation of the Student Code of Conduct will be disciplined appropriately.”

Students say they use their phones during the day to make appointments with guidance counselors, to study and help them cope with stress.



A sign reads “Stop Putin” behind Ukrainian Oleksandra Yashan during a vigil to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Nuclear

from Page 1

Naval Academy, said his sources told him Putin was in contact with Russian nuclear forces prior to the invasion of Ukraine.

“He has moved MiG 31s with KH-47 MS Kinzhal missiles within striking distance of Ukraine territory,” Lippold said. “They are nuclear-capable. He is sending a very strong signal he is willing to use nuclear weapons if Russian forces are confronted.”

Lippold, whose guided-missile destroyer was attacked by terrorists while refueling in Yemen in 2000, added Putin is feeling

“emboldened” and could test NATO next.

Putin, he added, hasn’t been challenged even as he’s poisoned opponents with nerve agents and invaded Crimea in 2014.

“People are totally underestimating Putin’s ruthlessness and what’s he’s capable of doing up to and including the use of nuclear weapons,” Lippold said.

Putin was quoted as saying when announcing the invasion of Ukraine “whoever tries to impede us, let alone create threats for our country and its people, must know that the Russian response will be immediate and lead to the consequences you have never seen in history.”

He added, “no one should have any doubts that a direct attack on our country will lead to the destruction and horrible consequences for any potential aggressor.”

In a related development, Russian forces swept into the region surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear plant — with Russian shelling hitting a radioactive waste repository, the Associated Press reported Thursday.

The AP added that Russian officials did not publicly comment on the battle.

Reach Joe Dwinell, Executive Editor of the Boston Herald at joed@bostonherald.com

Moore

from Page 1

has done since then.

“We have made real progress in closing the achievement gap. Our graduation rates are the highest they have ever been. More West Hartford students graduate having earned college credit than in any other system in the state,” he wrote.

West Hartford has about 9,500 students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade, a \$175 million budget and roughly 1,500 full- and part-time employees ranging from teachers, principals, cafeteria workers and security guards to librarians, psychologists, secretaries and classroom aides.

His new position will be quite different.

As head of the Niles Township High School District 219, Moore will be in charge of two large high schools but no elementary or middle schools. District 219 serves a combined enrollment of 4,600 in the northern Chicago suburbs of Lincolnwood, Skokie, Morton Grove and Niles.

“Being focused on high schools certainly was a draw. I started my career there, and I have always had a love of the high school environment,” Moore said Friday when asked whether District 219’s uncommon structure had attracted him to apply.

Moore told the Courant he has no family ties in Illinois, but is excited to begin a new challenge.

“There is excitement in the unknown, and I have far too much wanderlust to spend my entire life only living in New England.”

— Tom Moore, superintendent of West Hartford schools

“Part of the excitement is that now, as our children have gone off to college, my wife Tara and I can embark on a new chapter of our lives, together, in a new place,” he said. “There is excitement in the unknown, and I have far too much wanderlust to spend my entire life only living in New England.”

West Hartford’s budget lists Moore’s salary at approximately \$220,000.

In the Niles position, he will be replacing Steven Isoye, who is being paid \$260,000 this year. Isoye is retiring after six years as superintendent.

In its recruitment notices, Niles said it sought a leader with extensive skill in serving a diverse population. More than half of its students come from homes where English is not the dominant language; when the district sought community input through a survey, it was published in English, Spanish, Urdu, Assyrian, Korean and Arabic.

CONNECTICUT

Major fentanyl dealer sentenced to prison

Feds say he distributed drugs in Conn., aided in NYC laundering scheme

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A Connecticut drug dealer was sentenced to 11 ½ years in prison for his part in distributing kilograms of fentanyl and heroin and collecting bags of cash for laundering in New York City, federal officials said.

Daniel Estremera, 42, who had been living in East Hartford, had pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl, federal authorities said.

In 2019, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency’s Hartford

Task Force began investigating a Mexican-based ring distributing heroin and fentanyl in the state. Estremera and others had been getting bulk quantities and doling to street-level dealers, authorities said.

Cash from drug sales was handed off to a money broker in Brooklyn, New York, who helped launder proceeds before transfer to organization leaders. On Aug. 14, 2019, investigators stopped Estremera’s car after he met with a drug associate and seized \$14,960 in cash. On Aug. 28, 2019, after watching Estremera transfer a shopping bag to another individual, investigators stopped the other person’s vehicle and seized \$72,570 in cash, officials said. Between August and October 2019, law enforcement seized more than \$100,000 in cash from other

members of the drug trafficking organization.

The organization used locations in central Connecticut to store, process and package fentanyl for street sale, including office space on Pratt Street in Hartford, an apartment in the city’s Asylum Hill neighborhood and a New Britain apartment. Estremera used an apartment on South Street in West Hartford to process, package and store narcotics, federal authorities said. On March 13, 2020, investigators searched the apartment and seized approximately 1.5 kilograms of fentanyl and about 500 wax folds of the drug, according to a news release.

Estremera and several co-defendants were arrested on April 28, 2020 after investigators seized about \$100,000 in cash, a firearm,

several thousand wax folds of suspected fentanyl and numerous items used in the processing and packaging of narcotics, authorities said.

Estremera had been detained since his arrest. On June 3, 2020, a grand jury returned an indictment charging Estremera and nine others with narcotics distribution and money-laundering offenses.

Estremera’s criminal history includes a state drug conviction for which he served a 42-month prison sentence and the federal conviction stemming from his role in a Hartford-area heroin trafficking ring. In February 2009, he was sentenced in federal court to 120 months of imprisonment, followed by eight years of supervised release. He was released from prison in March 2018 and was on supervised release at

the time of his arrest in the more recent case.

On Thursday in federal court in New Haven, District Judge Janet C. Hall also sentenced Estremera to five years of supervised release for his role in the fentanyl trafficking ring and for violating the conditions of his supervised release that followed the prior federal conviction.

The DEA’s Hartford Task Force includes personnel from the DEA Hartford Resident Office, the Connecticut State Police, and the Bristol, Hartford, East Hartford, Enfield, Manchester, New Britain, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Windsor Locks and Willimantic police departments.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Hockey neck guard bill turns to wider look at sport safety

Associated Press

A Connecticut state lawmaker who’s also a certified athletic trainer said Tuesday she wants a working group to examine concerns about student athletes’ safety equipment, after a 10th grade hockey player was fatally injured during a game last month.

Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, R-Seymour, had initially called for legislation to have all student hockey players wear a neck guard or similar protective device. She now says a wider approach to updating state law would be more useful. The Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association has made the same recommendation.

“Having all the experts and stakeholders weigh in to make well-thought-out decisions to help

keep our student athletes safe in the best, most productive way, so they can continue to play the sports they love safely” would best serve student athletes,” she said.

Klarides-Ditria’s comments were included in written testimony submitted to the General Assembly’s Committee on Children, which held a public hearing Tuesday on a committee bill that would prevent, as of Oct. 1, an “operator of a youth ice hockey activity or an intramural or interscholastic ice hockey event” from allowing a child to participate unless the child is wearing a protective neck guard.

Benjamin Edward “Teddy” Balkind, 16, died after his neck was cut by a skate during a Jan. 6 hockey game. The head of Balkind’s school said in a recent letter that the injury occurred while the

student was skating upright and “through no fault of anyone’s, or any lack of control.”

Legislation calling for mandatory neck guards has received a mixed response. The Connecticut Association of Independent Schools supports the bill. Rick Branson, executive director of the organization, said in a written testimony submitted to the children’s committee that many of the 89 CAIS schools and their athletic associations are now recommending or requiring neck guards.

“We recognize that schools cannot eliminate all risk to students and student athletes, but this legislation is an appropriate action for student safety,” he wrote.

However, the bill is opposed by the Sports Medicine Committee of the Connecticut State Medi-



Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, who initially called for legislation to have all student hockey players wear a neck guard or similar device, now says a wider approach to state law would be more useful. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

cal Society, which says there isn’t sufficient medical evidence to support the proposal. In written testimony, the committee noted how USA Hockey, the governing body of organized hockey in the U.S., recommends but does not mandate neck guards. Also, the committee said research shows the majority of hockey-related

neck lacerations are superficial, and available neck protectors don’t eliminate the risk of laceration from a skate blade.

The group called for further research into the effectiveness of neck guards and recommended a task force, including members of the medical society, be created to further examine the issue.

DPH commissioner pick clears key committee vote

Associated Press

HARTFORD — Dr. Manisha Juthani’s nomination for commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, a job she has held since September, cleared a key committee vote Thursday.

House members on the General Assembly’s Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee voted 7-1 in favor of her appointment, sending it to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

Democratic members of the committee lauded Juthani, an infectious disease expert, for taking on the job of DPH commissioner during the COVID-19 pandemic. Juthani took a public service leave of absence from her job as associate professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine and of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health after her nomination by Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont.

“I salute you. I don’t know anybody who was stronger than you during this pandemic to say yes, I will do this,” said Sen. Marilyn



Juthani

Moore, D-Bridgeport. “I appreciate you stepping up.”

State Rep. Jason Perillo, R-Shelton, cast the sole vote against Juthani. He raised concerns during Thursday’s public hearing about a misstatement the acting commissioner made in December when a promised order of 3 million COVID-19 at-home tests fell through. At a news conference, Juthani told reporters “we were given pictures and confirmation that the product was being loaded and on the way. Those were misrepresented to us.”

Juthani acknowledged Thursday she had not personally seen any pictures, which ultimately did not exist, but had been told photos are provided whenever the state makes such a large purchase to confirm the accuracy of the order.

“So I certainly did not intend to mislead anybody,” she said. “I communicated what had been relayed to me, which is that when such a big purchase is done, we ask for photos. Which is what I suggested.”

Stolen car parts, guns found after crash

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

State police investigating a fatal one-car crash in Manchester found stolen catalytic converters, license plates and guns amid the wreckage, police said Friday.

Police said the driver, Jorge Ruiz, lost control and the car traveled from the right side of the highway to the left and onto the median, where it struck a tree and broke in two. Ramon Quinones, 16, of Hartford, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, which happened Feb. 19 at about 5 a.m. in the eastbound lanes west of Exit 2.

Among the debris, police said they found stolen catalytic converters, cutting tools, stolen license plates and two stolen handguns. Two Hartford men who were also in the car — Ruiz and Tajay Hunter, both 21 — were hurt in the crash. No arrests have been made as the investigation continues, police said.

Police throughout the state have reported an increase in catalytic converter thefts. In January, thieves fired gunshots after a Manchester man confronted them stealing a neighbor’s converter. No one was hurt in that incident, but victimized car owners can spend up to \$3,000 to replace the part.

Catalytic converter thefts are not new, but throughout the state and nation, thefts have been increasing along with the value of precious metals in the pollutant-scrubbing devices. Equipped with a battery-powered saw, a thief can sever a converter from a car’s exhaust system in under two minutes.

Anyone with information about either the crash or theft investigation is asked to contact Trooper Wilson at 860-534-1098, or by email at john.wilson@ct.gov.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Missing man sought in Bristol

Bristol police are looking for a man whose absence from home was described by family members as “totally out of character.”

Sacir Kadri, 62, left home Wednesday at about 2 p.m. in his tan 2005 Mercedes ML350 (Connecticut registration 632YHL) and has not returned, police said.

Kadri was described as white, 5 feet 6, weighing 160 pounds with

a scar on his stomach. He last was seen wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans and work boots. Kadri is nonverbal and has memory loss due to a recent medical event, police said.

Anyone with information on Kadri’s whereabouts is asked to call police at 860-584-3000.

— Jesse Leavenworth



Sacir Kadri

Carbon

from Page 1

Charles Rothenberger, an attorney for Save the Sound, submitted testimony to the energy committee in favor of the 2040 target and said in an interview Thursday that the legislature could be doing more to help Connecticut meet its emissions reduction goals.

“A course-correction clearly needs to be made now that would [require] some more aggressive action than we’re seeing in the bills that have been introduced so far,” he said.

For Rothenberger, the goals laid out in the governor’s bill seem reasonable and attainable.

“The deadline is 2040, so that gives us 18 years to work toward that,” he said. “I think it’s incredibly realistic.”

During the hearing, some state

lawmakers voiced concerns about the target.

State Rep. Harry Arora, a Greenwich Republican, said that while he supports emissions reductions, he called the bill an “aspirational” one with misplaced priorities. The legislation is “a little bit too aggressive on the best friend we have,” he said, referring to natural gas.

“If we start doing what we are saying, so loud, so clear, there will be no investment in hydrocarbons,” he said. “We still need some investment in hydrocarbons.”

Dykes argued that the legislation would help inform the state’s use of renewable technologies and development of energy efficiency. She added that accelerated decarbonization in the electric sector would compound the emissions benefits of shifting toward electric vehicles.

State Rep. David Arconti, a Danbury Democrat, raised concerns about how utilities

would meet the 2040 target and what would happen when the state’s emissions spiked during the wintertime.

“That’s my fear: We have this statute, for planning purposes, but practically and in reality, we’re going to see emissions rise because of market inefficiencies,” he said. “So I don’t know how to reconcile that.”

Dykes responded that she shared Arconti’s concerns, but argued that the target will help ensure that the state is investing in carbon-free dispatchable energy sources, which could kick in if needed.

Marissa Gillett, chairman of PURA, noted during the hearing that the agency looks to the executive and legislative branches for policy signals as it upgrades the state’s grid.

“If we know the state is looking to electrify both transportation and heating, then that tells me, at

PURA, that I need to be even more concerned about the reliability of the infrastructure and make sure that that electricity that is going to power our cars and our houses is delivered in a reliable way,” Gillett said. “It’s important to send long-term price signals to the market, especially if we are looking to bring in to the space additional competition, and there’s also a cost of inaction.”

Still, she emphasized that state leaders need to ensure that rising electrical costs are kept in check for consumers.

After drawing criticism last fall following the collapse of the Transportation and Climate Initiative, Lamont issued an executive order in December aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Connecticut’s executive branch. That order established several new goals, including a commitment that all electricity purchased and gener-

ated by the state’s executive branch be zero-carbon by 2030.

But the Lamont administration also emphasized the need for broad legislation to supplement executive action.

“To meet the overall targets that we need to be meeting to reduce emissions, we will need new authority that the legislature has, to date, not granted,” Dykes said at the time.

During the hearing, lawmakers and speakers touched on a number of other proposed pieces of legislation, including S.B. No. 92, regarding the electrification of school buses in Connecticut and H.B. No. 5117, which would make electric vehicle charging stations accessible to residents of multi-unit homes.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com. Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.



Special subscriber message

Your subscription includes Unlimited Digital Access

Get the latest stories online, our app with breaking news alerts and the eNewspaper, a digital edition of our paper, emailed daily.



Go-Activate.com

THE BALTIMORE SUN | Chicago Tribune | Daily Press | Hartford Courant | THE MORNING CALL
DAILY NEWS | Orlando Sentinel | SunSentinel | The Virginian-Pilot

LIVING

CELEBRITIES

Kardashian requests divorce proceeds

From news services

Kim Kardashian has asked a court to ignore Ye’s attempts to slow down their divorce and to end their marriage as soon as possible. She filed documents in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday saying Ye, who legally changed his name from Kanye West, in his own recent filing, began adding conditions to the divorce that would mean changing the couples’ prenuptial agreement, and is seeking protections that are unnecessary and based on falsehoods.

Kardashian said it’s clear that he is simply attempting to delay, and is causing damage by doing so.

“Mr. West, by his actions, has made it clear that he does not accept that the parties’ marital relationship is over,” the court filing says. “Mr. West has disseminated on social media the parties’ private communications and misinformation about personal family matters and co-parenting, which has caused emotional distress.”

Kardashian, 41, asked the court in December to declare her legally single before the details of child custody and property are worked out. She said in Wednesday’s filing that Ye, 44, had agreed to the move in advance. But on Feb. 16, Ye objected in his filing and raised a host of new issues.

Reality TV superstar Kardashian and rap and fashion mogul Ye were married nearly seven years and have four children.

Penn in Ukraine to work on doc: Filmmaker and actor Sean Penn is in Ukraine to continue work on a documentary about the ongoing Russian assault. The office of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote in a Facebook post Thursday that Penn attended press briefings,



Kim Kardashian is asking a court to ignore Ye’s attempts to slow down their divorce. WILLY SANJUAN/INVISION 2020

met with Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk and spoke to journalists and military personnel about the Russian invasion.

“Sean Penn demonstrates the courage that many others, especially western politicians lack,” the president’s office wrote on Facebook. “The director specially came to Kiev to record all the events that are currently happening in Ukraine and to tell the world the truth about Russia’s invasion of our country.”

Penn was also there in late November to work on the project, which is being produced by VICE Studios. Photographs at the time showed him visiting the front lines of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the Donetsk region.

Meghan, Prince Harry to be honored at Image Awards: Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, will receive the

President’s Award during the 53rd NAACP Image Awards.

On Thursday, the NAACP announced that it had selected Prince Harry and Meghan who have “heeded the call to social justice” and joined the “struggle for equity” in the U.S. and around the world. The couple will be given the award during Saturday’s ceremony that will be televised on BET.

Previous recipients include Jay-Z, Muhammad Ali, Rihanna, LeBron James and Jesse Jackson.

Feb. 26 birthdays: Actor Bill Duke is 79. Actor Marta Kristen is 77. Keyboardist Jonathan Cain is 72. Singer Michael Bolton is 69. Actor Greg Germann is 64. Actor Mark Dacascos is 58. Singer Erykah Badu is 51. Actor Maz Jobrani is 50. Singer Kyle Norman is 47. Singer Nate Ruess is 40. Singer Natalia Lafourcade is 38.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

COVID-19 scare keeps group member away

Dear Amy: Two weeks ago, my husband came down with COVID-19.

I duly reported this to the person who is in charge of a weekly outdoor gathering I attend with some other people.

I said that we were taking serious precautions to ensure that I didn’t catch the disease, and that I had tested negative for the past five days.

I wasn’t surprised that my offer to skip the meeting that week was accepted.

I was distressed, however, to discover that the organizer had still included me in the group text announcing the event.

It was painful to see all the outcries of joy from the other members that we would be meeting. Despite the measures I took to remove myself from the group text, I continued to receive messages.

This week I was again included in the group text, then privately contacted to query my testing status. I reported that I had tested negative eight times, but was asked to verify negative results for both me and my husband.

I said that our doctor’s office had told my husband not to waste a test because he would probably show being positive for some weeks, even though he was no longer contagious per CDC advisories.

I understand that people are worried about COVID-19, but is it wrong to expect some common courtesy? If someone is not really invited to an event, isn’t it cruel to include that person in a group text?

— Lonely

Dear Lonely: I assume your

main question is about the utility of excluding someone from an outdoor event who consistently tests negative for COVID-19 for many days leading up to the event.

To me, it seems overly cautious to keep someone who doesn’t have COVID-19 away from an outdoor activity — but these are the rules laid down by the organizer, and you are conscientiously adhering to these guidelines. You are displaying “common courtesy” by being honest.

In terms of this group texting issue — yes, it hurts that you can’t join the activity, but you are part of the group, and it is appropriate to include you in notifications, even if you can’t be there.

This is a temporary but tough thing for you to experience, and after two pandemic years of facing other tough things, it might hurt a little more than it should.

Dear Amy: My dad has built incredible things, including a garage and an addition on his home. He has remodeled neighbors’ homes and made some remarkable, high-quality projects. This is his hobby. He has never charged anyone for helping them; they get the supplies, and he shows up to help. He has freely given his time and talents for neighbors.

I recently talked to him about a built-in wall project for my own home.

A few weeks later, he called me to say he had some free time and could help me with the built-ins.

After some planning, he mentioned how much less he is charging me than another contractor would,

and how he didn’t need me to give him the money for supplies upfront, because he’d include it on my invoice.

Is it presumptuous of me to think my dad would help me build something if I cover the costs for all of the materials?

I thought my dad would want to give his time helping his daughter.

I was stoked when he called and said he had time to help, but our last conversation left me deflated.

— Frustrated Daughter

Dear Frustrated: Your father wasn’t specific regarding charging you for his time and talent. And it seems that he is advancing you the cost of the material.

Please, ask him to be specific, and then talk about it, using a neutral tone and adopting a non-defensive attitude. If you decide to go ahead with the project, go with him to select materials and assist him in the building.

Dear Amy: Your sweet and helpful response to “Frustrated” on how to understand and relate to fellow fourth graders brought tears to my eyes.

I have a quirky and somewhat awkward son who could have written that question.

I’m going to share your answer with him tonight.

— Grateful Mom

Dear Grateful: I thought “Frustrated” was very brave to describe this.

Copyright 2022 by Amy Dickinson

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

MUSIC REVIEWS

Pop-punk queen Lavoigne reigns

Avril Lavoigne is known for being a pillar of pop-punk in the early 2000s who paved her own path in the male-dominated alt-rock world. It has been almost 20 years since her debut album, “Let Go,” was released in the summer of 2002. But the Grammy Award-nominated artist is reminding everyone that she is still the master of the genre with her seventh album, “Love Sux.”

Lavoigne is not trying to appease anyone. Many of the tracks explore an edge to pop-punk that’s not typical to mainstream Top 40 radio. Electric guitars are blasting through almost every track. In the first song, “Cannonball,” you hear feedback amp and an electric guitar, then she sings, “Like a ticking time bomb I’m about to explode.”

You can hear the punk-rock sounds all over the album, the power chords and loud riffs. But Lavoigne is still very much a pop star in all the best ways. “Bite Me,” “Love Sux” and “Love It When You Hate Me” with blackbear lean into the alternative rock vibe, but they still have catchy, addictive pop hooks.

The whole album is light-hearted, but it’s about self-worth. Lavoigne’s rebellious attitude is all over her lyrics, and she makes it clear in “Bois Lie” featuring Machine Gun Kelly, a true break-up anthem. She also shows off her range with “Dare to Love Me,” a ballad that starts with a soft piano and shows her vulnerability in her lyrics.

Lavoigne has played with her sound and delved deep with her lyrics over the course of her career, but with “Love Sux,” it’s a true reintroduction to the pop-punk genre. — *Karena Phan, Associated Press*

Homebound during the pandemic, Joan Osborne began combing through dusty shoeboxes in her



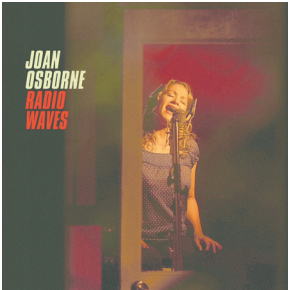
‘Love Sux’ Avril Lavigne (DTA Records)

closets, and what she found was still fashionable because good music never goes out of style. The boxes contained recordings of at least 100 in-studio radio performances by Osborne dating back as far as the 1990s, and she chose some of the best for “Radio Waves,” a stellar collection of 13 tunes notable for its variety.

Osborne has always been an astute interpreter, and her soulful, smoky alto is a compelling instrument whether she’s singing the blues (“Shake Your Hips”), R&B (“Everybody Is a Star”), Bob Dylan (“Make You Feel My Love”) or the Great American Songbook (“Dream a Little Dream”).

With instrumental accompaniment ranging from an acoustic guitar to a full rock band, Osborne is creative in re-imagining familiar tunes. A stripped-down version of her unlikely hit “One of Us” more directly conveys the wonder of grace in the commonplace, while Gary Wright’s 1970s hit “My Love Is Alive” becomes improbably funky.

Osborne strikes moods suitable for every broadcast shift, from sunrise to signoff, and seems to know it. “Good morn or evening, friends. Here’s your friendly announcer,” she sings to begin Stevie Wonder’s “Love’s in Need of Love Today,” a tune with a message worth transmitting 24 hours a day. — *Steven Wine, Associated Press*



‘Radio Waves’ Joan Osborne (Womanly Hips Records)

Fans of Shovels, Rope or both need not be alarmed by “Divide & Conquer,” a wrenching breakup song on the new album “Manticores.” It’s compelling but fictional, and happily, Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst are still going strong as husband and wife and duo Shovels & Rope.

The new 10-tune set rivals their best work. The album required little outside input — the folk duo wrote the songs and played every note themselves, from piano underpinnings to the occasional guitar or harp solo. When there are words to be sung, Trent and Hearst usually do it together. Their harmonies dance with an appealing informality, as if they’re figuring out intervals while they sing.

The unpolished approach fits the material. “I’m singing like a toothache,” they observe on “Happy Birthday Who,” a lament about homelessness. When the couple profess their love for their two children on the affecting ballad “Bleed Me,” Hearst’s vibrato conveys a maternal quiver.

Elsewhere they’re at full throttle, and topics range from a World War I truce and the ghost of James Dean to the visceral plain and cosmic bones.

“Life will make you shiver,” the lovely ballad “Anchor” concludes. “It’s a long and lonely river.”

Find an ampersand to lean on. — *Steven Wine*

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Progression may prove to be less exciting than you first think. That doesn’t mean you’re destined to stay stuck where you are, but a new offer might not be the big deal it first appears to be. It could be wise to act fast.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your imagination could be running really wild at present. You may as well let it go where it will. When it comes to making decisions, you probably need to check things out thoroughly before committing yourself. You don’t have to stick to what seems sensible. Your ideas might have a lot going for them.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): A golden opportunity to return a favor could appear at any moment. This isn’t a time to sit around and consider all the options — the sooner you make a move, the better you’ll be able to take advantage of the situation. Resolving this can free up your brain to focus.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Acting impulsively may help you connect better with people at this time. Sometimes, you have to take a risk. You could meet someone different from the type of people usually in your life and feel tempted to spend more time with them. It’s best not to waste time.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 26, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba and headed back to France in a bid to regain power.

In 1942, “How Green Was My Valley” won the

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Instead of wallowing in how boring your routine is, you can take action to make your life more interesting. That’s especially true if you’ve been planning to reorganize things for a while. If you don’t find your to-do list dull and tedious, it’s likely that you’ll be far more efficient.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Today you may feel an urge to allow your creative talents to truly shine. The opinions of others aren’t the point. If there’s something you enjoy doing, you’ll feel good if you indulge yourself. Plus, with some practice, you can always get better at it. You may feel less inhibited than usual.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your domestic obligations could be lighter than usual just now. You probably have more time to relax a little. You may even have the opportunity to shed some tasks permanently with a little clever thinking. It’s worth investigating the option, even if you decide it isn’t your style.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone you barely know might turn out to be important in your life today. You don’t need to become entangled in their life or make a prolonged close connection with them if you don’t want to. Sometimes things are just for the moment. If help is offered, accept it.

Academy Award for Best Picture of 1941, beating out nine other films.

In 1993, a truck bomb exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York’s World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is a great day for lightening up! It’s time to get rid of whatever clutter is taking up space in your home. You could feel much better once you’ve sorted things out. However, you may need to be wary of letting your enthusiasm run away and disposing of something you’ll miss later.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It’s more important to please yourself rather than someone else. Make sure people understand what you truly want. They may be surprised if you reveal something you’ve never mentioned before, but they should soon get over it. You could end up regretting it if you commit to something that isn’t really you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Unfinished business could be on your mind. You’re likely to continue feeling unsettled unless you take action. It isn’t necessarily a big deal. Plus, it might not take a lot of effort. You could be more effective if you break tasks down into small steps and attack them one at a time.

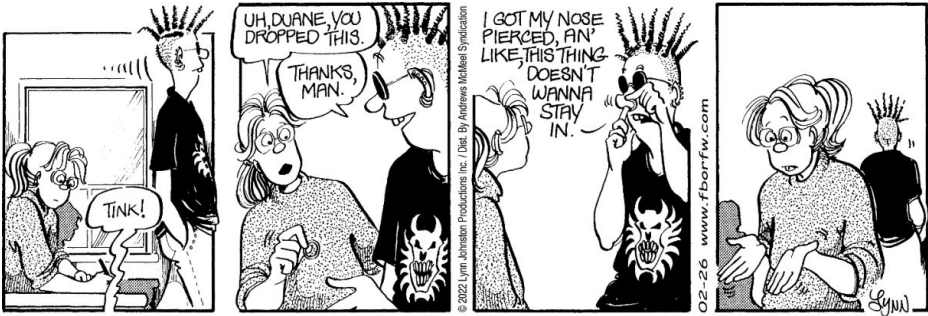
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You can only be part of so many groups at a time today. You could be worrying about nothing. If you want something new in your life, that often means that something old needs to go. Simply telling people you’re unavailable could be enough to send the message.

by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey’s talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

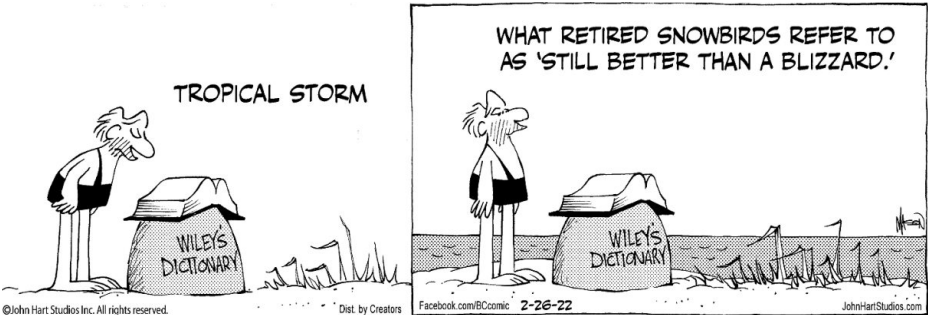
In 2005, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered his country’s constitution changed to allow presidential challengers in an upcoming fall election.



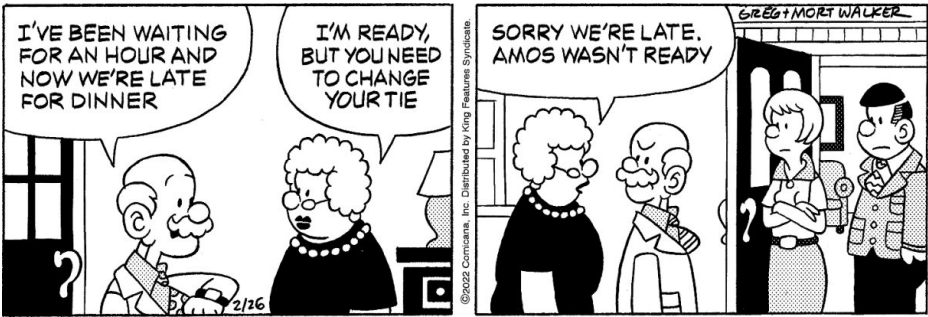
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



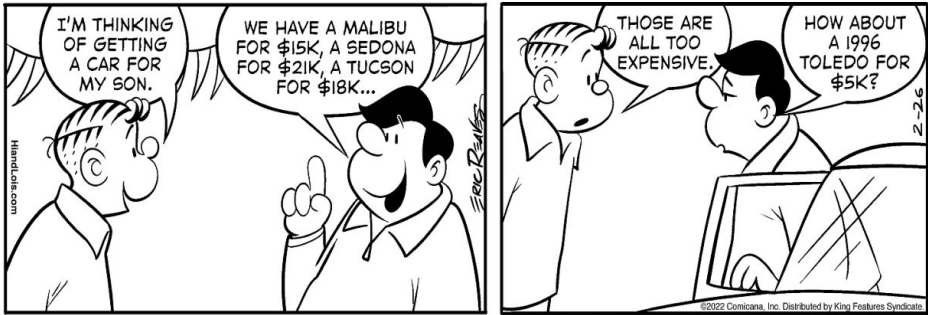
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



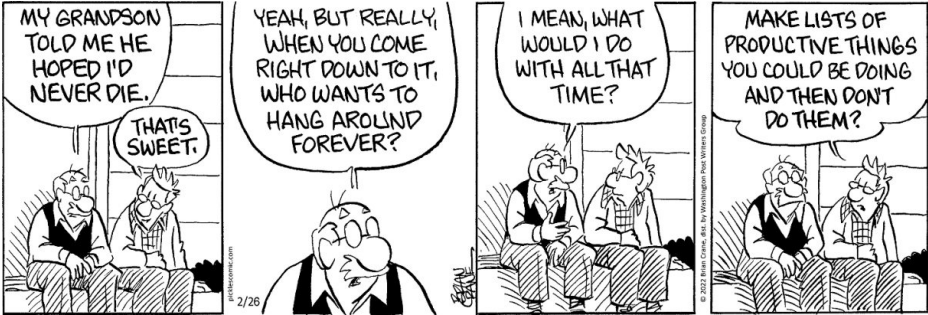
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

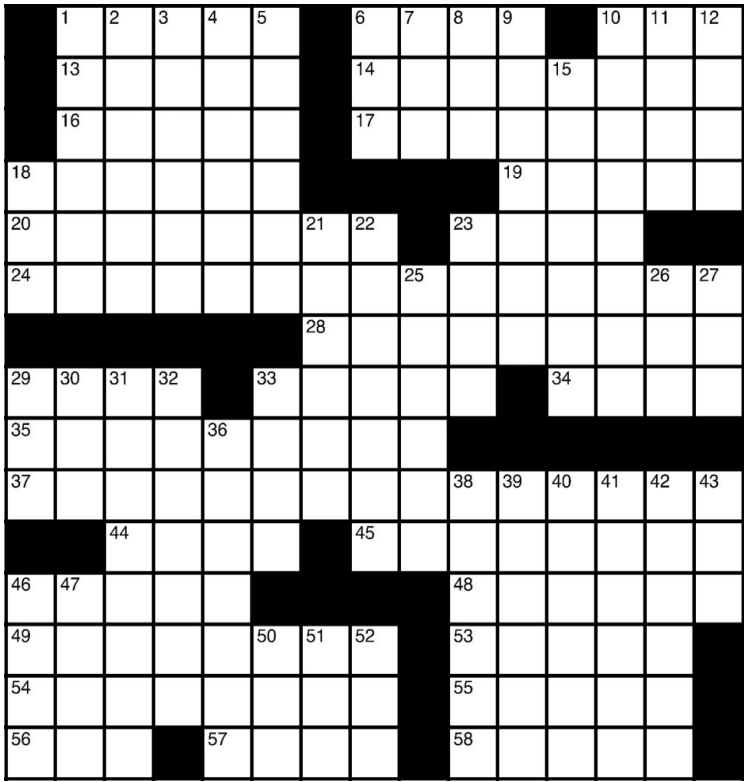
Across

- 1 Be temporarily
6 Pulitzer-winning journalist for her Clinton-Lewinsky columns
10 Part of an ear
13 Heckle
14 2018 documentary about Alex Honnold's conquest of El Capitan
16 Like a classic Reuben
17 "Are you serious!?"
18 Key of Chopin's Ballade No. 1
19 Mariner's worry
20 Minute quality
23 Pastoral sounds
24 Return address for guilty sorts?
28 Written in the stars
29 6-Down info
33 "My Fair Lady" composer
34 Law school newbie
35 Postgame celebrations
37 Elusive result
44 Enervate
45 Well-thought-of
46 John of Scotch fame
48 Showrunner Shonda
49 Colorful quartz variety
53 Victim of Hermes

- 8 One of China's Northern Dynasties
9 Take away
10 Unity
11 "Frozen" snowman who sings "In Summer"
12 Some spammers
15 Certify
18 Sporty rides
21 Calif. home of works by Matisse and Warhol
22 Skyline feature
23 Prefix with diction
25 Mooring cable openings
26 U.K. honor
27 Sushi bar fare
29 False start?

Down

- 1 __ Fireball: hot candy
2 Boxer, for instance
3 Call it a night
4 Fishing line?
5 Sound choice
6 Tex. airport that's bigger than Manhattan
7 1/24 of un giorno



By Jamey Smith

Tribune Content Agency 2/26/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ 8 6 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ K Q J 7 5
♣ 8 3

WEST

- ♠ K 10 5 4
♥ J 10 9 7 3
♦ 10
♣ K J 5

EAST

- ♠ 9 7 3
♥ 8 2
♦ A 9 4 2
♣ 10 7 6 2

SOUTH

- ♠ A Q J
♥ A Q 5
♦ 8 6 3
♣ A Q 9 4

The bidding:

- South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

A giveaway program

There is a lot of luck in bridge, but there is also a lot of skill. Take this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. South wins with the ace and plays a diamond, covering West's ten with the jack.

Let's assume that East ducks, which he should, and that East also ducks the king when the suit is continued. (If East wins either diamond, South easily makes the contract by establishing the suit.)

It would now be futile for declarer to continue diamonds, so he starts looking for tricks elsewhere. But when he tries a spade finesse, the queen loses to the king, and when he later tries a club finesse, that also loses.

And so, in the fullness of time, declarer finishes with only eight tricks — two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club — and goes down one.

Of course, South can claim that he was terribly unlucky — the diamonds broke 4-1, and he lost two finesses. But

even so, he had a way of assuring the contract by making a peculiar, though not unreasonable, play: When West plays the ten of diamonds at trick two, declarer should let him win it! Once South does this, he cannot be stopped from making nine tricks. West wins and returns a heart, but declarer is now in the driver's seat.

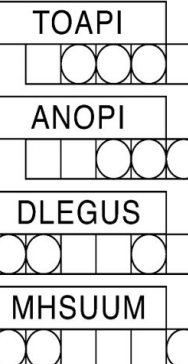
He takes the heart with the queen and forces out the ace of diamonds to nail down three diamond tricks. Whatever East returns, South is certain of nine tricks regardless of the location of the two missing kings.

Alternatively, South can cover the ten of diamonds with the jack at trick two and then lead a low diamond from dummy at trick three to achieve the same result. Either method of play is acceptable, but the important thing is that South must be willing to lose one of the early diamond leads cheaply.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

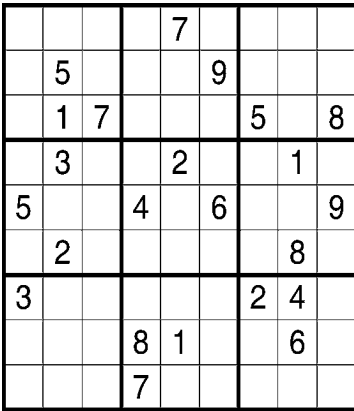


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

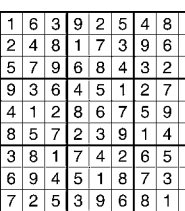
Yesterday's Jumbles: EVENT APPLY SUMMER STRICT
Answer: The gorilla spent so much time with his girlfriend because she was his — "PRIME-MATE"

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

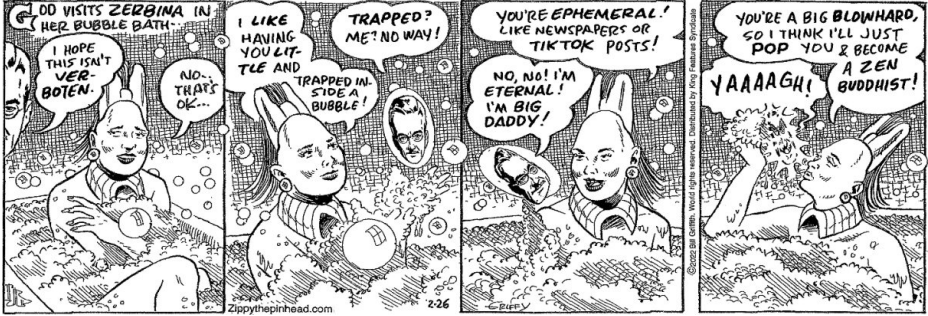
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ZIPPY



Motoring
Inside

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

‘Come back strong’

How East Hartford won its first state championship and tied one of the most dominant teams in Connecticut

By **Lori Riley**
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — East Hartford freshman wrestler Dravyn Roberts didn’t think his team had a chance when he stepped onto the mat for his 160-pound final at the Class LL state wrestling championships last Saturday at Trumbull High.

After the previous day’s preliminary matches, East Hartford was

leading in the team standings and had nine semifinalists going into Saturday. Only three Hornets won in the semifinals, and Danbury — the five-time defending Class LL champion — had four of its five wrestlers move on to the finals.

East Hartford coach Todd Albert knew what the score was, but he wasn’t about to tell any of his kids. They didn’t need any more pressure. With two weight classes left — 152 and 160 — East Hartford

needed two pins to tie Danbury.

East Hartford senior captain Cooper Lavigne, wrestling for fifth place at 152 pounds, didn’t know the score.

“We had some tough matches,” Lavigne said. “We were trying to stay positive. People lost their match, we’d say, ‘Come back strong. Go get the next one.’”

Lavigne did his part, pinning

Turn to Wrestling, Page 2



East Hartford coaches and wrestlers celebrate freshman Dravyn Roberts’ pin in the 160-pound championship at the Class LL wrestling tournament. The Hornets tied Danbury for their first Class LL wrestling championship last Saturday at Trumbull High. **TODD ALBERT/CONTRIBUTED**

NO. 7 UCONN WOMEN 93, ST. JOHN’S 38



UConn’s Paige Bueckers exults in the roar of the fans after sinking her first bucket of the game, beating the buzzer at the end of the first quarter. Bueckers played for the first time since injuring a knee on Dec. 5. **PHOTOS BY CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Welcome (back) party

With Paige Bueckers and everyone back, UConn has the look of a juggernaut

HARTFORD — That monster of a team everyone was envisioning during the dark, dreary days of December and January arrived.

No one had to see a shadow or adjust the clock to understand things are about to get a lot warmer around the UConn women’s basketball team.

With Aubrey Griffin lost for the season, there was just one more piece of this puzzle left to fit in, and Paige Bueckers’ arrival on the court was it. The Huskies are whole, with nine trustworthy, battle-tested players to run out there game after game.

Nine. Can you imagine? That’s like three “Big Threes.”

The Huskies made short work of St. John’s at the XL Center on Friday night, winning 93-38, with Bueckers working in

Turn to Amore, Page 4



UConn’s Paige Bueckers and Azzi Fudd are finally teaming up for the stretch run. Fudd scored a game-high 19 points in UConn’s 93-38 drubbing of St. John’s, and Bueckers scored eight in her return from a knee injury.

A shout, a standing ovation and ... she’s back

By **Dom Amore**
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — At 5:52 p.m., Paige Bueckers jogged out to the XL Center court with her teammates, letting out a yell. “Woooooo,” reverberated through the empty arena.

For the first time since Dec. 5, Bueckers was one with her teammates. No crutches, no cast, no brace. Her return went about as well as anyone could have expected. She played 12 minutes, with brief appearances in each of the first three quarters, and scored eight points in the Huskies’ 93-38 victory over St. John’s in Big East women’s basketball.

“It was what I expected,” coach Geno Auriemma said. “I didn’t expect her to be bad. I didn’t expect her to play 30 minutes. She made some plays that other players on our team have a hard time making.”

Bueckers, cleared to play by UConn’s medical staff after a meeting with Dr. Robert Arciero on Thursday, was not in the starting lineup against St. John’s, which included Nika Muhl, Azzi Fudd, Aaliyah Edwards, Christyn Williams and

Turn to Bueckers, Page 4

BASEBALL

Lockout talks appear to gain momentum

By **Ronald Blum**
Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Baseball players and owners took a first step toward salvaging Opening Day, nearing agreement Friday on an amateur draft lottery during lockout negotiations that included a surprise one-on-one meeting between Commissioner Rob Manfred and union head Tony Clark.

While an agreement on the draft was not complete, the talks gained momentum for the first time as Major League Baseball’s end of Monday deadline approached for a deal that would preserve Opening Day on March 31 and a 162-game schedule.

Talks will continue Saturday, the 87th day of baseball’s first work stoppage since 1995. The sides remain far apart on the big-money issues of the competitive balance tax thresholds and rates, salary arbitration eligibility, the size of a bonus pool for pre-arbitration-eligible players and the minimum salary.

In another sign of the disruption caused by baseball’s ninth work stoppage, MLB canceled three more days of spring training games through March 7. Exhibition games were to have begun Saturday.

But for the first time all week, both sides expressed a feeling they had moved in a positive direction.

Manfred had a meeting with Clark in June 2020 during pandemic restart talks that produced disagreement over what transpired that led to a still-pending grievance over the length of the season.

Manfred had not attended bargaining since the first session in April. He has a home in the area and had been in the background at the ballpark during the first four days of talks this week, speaking with management officials.

The players’ association had not known he was in the area, and Manfred surprised the union Friday when he asked for a one-on-one meeting with Clark.

Manfred then made the short walk from the offices near home plate where management officials had grouped, crossed the small driveway behind the right field foul pole and entered the building containing the Cardinals spring training clubhouse, where players had gathered.

Turn to Talks, Page 4

Safety Tip of the Day

Homes should look occupied, even when no one is home. Consider programming lamps and the TV to turn on at times when homes are normally active.

RisCASSI & DAVIS
P.C.
Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

riscassi-davis.com
131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut
860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Georgetown, Sunday, noon; at Creighton, Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), March 5, 5 p.m.
UConn WBB: Providence (Gampel), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 5, noon; Big East Semifinal vs. TBD (if necessary), 3 p.m.
Celtics: at Pistons, Saturday, noon; at Pacers, Sunday, 5 p.m.; Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: 76ers, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Suns, Friday, 10 p.m.
Nets: at Bucks, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Raptors, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Northeastern, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Vermont, Friday, 7 p.m.; Vermont, March 5, 3 p.m.
Bruins: at Sharks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.; at Ducks, Tuesday, 10 p.m.
Rangers: at Penguins, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Blues, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Sunday, 3 p.m.; Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
Noon: NASCAR Xfinity Production Alliance 300, Qualifying, (Live) FS1
2 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Wise Power 400, Qualifying, (Live) FS1
5 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Production Alliance 300. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: NHRA Arizona Nationals, Qualifying 2. (Live) FS1
BASKETBALL
Noon: Celtics at Pistons. (Live) NBCSB
Noon: Oklahoma State at Oklahoma. (Live) CBS
Noon: Elon at Northeastern. (Live) CBSSN
Noon: Purdue at Michigan State. (Live) ESPN
Noon: Florida at Georgia. (Live) ESPN2
Noon: Miami (Ohio) at Toledo. (Live) ESPN
12:30 p.m.: Duquesne at Rhode Island. (Live) USA
1 p.m.: Butler at Marquette. (Live) FOX
1 p.m.: Vanderbilt at Mississippi State. (Live) SEC
2 p.m.: Kentucky at Arkansas. (Live) CBS
2 p.m.: Navy at Colgate. (Live) CBSSN
2 p.m.: Iowa State at Kansas State. (Live) ESPN
2:30 p.m.: Fordham at Davidson. (Live) USA
3 p.m.: Clemson at Boston College. (Live) ACC
3:30 p.m.: Seton Hall at Xavier. (Live) FOX
3:30 p.m.: Texas A&M at Ole Miss. (Live) SEC
4 p.m.: UCLA at Oregon State. (Live) CBS
4 p.m.: Southern Illinois at Drake. (Live) CBSSN
4 p.m.: CIAA Tournament, Championship. (Live) ESPN
4:30 p.m.: VCU at UMass. (Live) USA
6 p.m.: South Carolina at Alabama. (Live) SEC
6 p.m.: St. Bonaventure at St. Joseph's. (Live) CBSSN
6 p.m.: Duke at Syracuse. (Live) ESPN
6 p.m.: Texas Tech at TCU. (Live) ESPN2
6 p.m.: Loyola-Chicago at Northern Iowa. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Louisville at Wake Forest. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Nevada at Wyoming. (Live) CBSSN
8 p.m.: Kansas at Baylor. (Live) ESPN
8:30 p.m.: Nets at Bucks. (Live) ABC
8:30 p.m.: Missouri at LSU. (Live) SEC
8:30 p.m.: Creighton at Providence. (Live) FS1
10 p.m.: Arizona State at Utah. (Live) ESPN
10:30 p.m.: Colorado State at Utah State. (Live) FS1
BOXING
10 p.m.: Chris Colbert vs. Roger Gutierrez. (Live) SHO
GOLF
1 p.m.: Honda Classic, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: Honda Classic, Third Round. (Live) NBC
3 p.m.: Cologuard Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
12:30 p.m.: Capitals at Flyers. (Live) NHL
3 p.m.: Rangers at Penguins. (Live) ABC
3 p.m.: Northeastern at UConn. (Live) Ch. 20
7:30 p.m.: Lightning at Predators. (Live) TNT
10 p.m.: Bruins at Sharks. (Live) NESN
SOCCER
7:30 a.m.: Premier League Leeds United vs Tottenham Hotspur. (Live) USA
10 a.m.: Premier League Manchester United vs Watford. (Live) USA
3:30 p.m.: Fútbol MLS (Live) UNI
7:30 p.m.: MLS New England Revolution at Portland Timbers. (Live) FOX

BRUINS

New 3rd line giving squad a different element

By Steve Conroy
Boston Herald

Brad Marchand's six-game suspension might have been the best thing that has happened to the Bruins this season. The absence of their star left winger forced coach Bruce Cassidy to experiment with some different line combinations, and it's looking like he struck gold with one of them. One criticism of this team — and it had been a valid one — was that it

wasn't big and gnarly enough, not quite hard enough to play against. But since the line of Trent Frederic, Charlie Coyle and Craig Smith was united four games ago, teams have not looked looked thrilled when the new 631-pound line gets tossed over the boards. The grouping gives the Bruins a physical tone-setter they had lacked. They were at it again Thursday night in Seattle. On the first shift of the game, they were all over the Kraken, hemming them in their zone until

Seattle finally took a penalty. The most revelatory aspect of the line is the sudden growth — four years in the making — of Frederic's game. He's carrying the puck, protecting it well, skating well and timing his hits so that they are legal and of high impact. Now Cassidy says Frederic and the rest of the line have another step to take: score. "[Frederic] is moving his feet better when he gets the puck and then not looking for plays when he's

standing still," said Cassidy after the B's practice Friday at Climate Pledge Arena. "His instinct now is to get moving. Get moving and protect it and plays will open. "If he happens to miss one and it's a bang-bang play, fine. But get moving so that you can shield people. "He's had a couple of good rushes every game now where's he's been able to do that. The next part of it is he's getting to spots where he can get his shot off. Now it's a matter of finishing some of those plays."



Patriots cornerback J.C. Jackson intercepts a pass intended for the Jaguars' Tavon Austin during a Jan. 2 game. Coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots have until March 8 to decide whether they want to place the franchise tag on Jackson, who will turn 27 in November. **NANCY LANE/MEDIA NEWS GROUP**

PATRIOTS

Playing tag — or not

Pats face tough decision on whether to use the franchise on J.C. Jackson

By Nicole Yang
Boston Globe

As the Patriots prepare for the NFL Scouting Combine, the deadline looms over an important decision involving cornerback J.C. Jackson. Coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots have until March 8 to decide whether they want to place the franchise tag on Jackson, who will turn 27 in November. The tag is a one-year, nonnegotiable contract worth the average salary of the top five players at the position. For cornerbacks, that amount is projected to be \$17.3 million this year.

While Jackson understandably is hoping to secure long-term money and stability, he has said he would play on the franchise tag if the Patriots elect to go that route. But when the tag window opened Feb. 22, Jackson told NBC Sports Boston he had not yet heard from the Patriots — much to his disappointment.

"I guess they feel like they don't need me," Jackson said. "I guess I can't be that important to them. I know I am, but they're not showing me."

If the Patriots do not tag Jackson, they will have to compete with incoming offers to retain him. Jackson is set to become an unrestricted free agent — able to sign with any team — when the new league year begins at 4 p.m. March 16. Agents and teams can start negotiating at noon March 14.

The Steelers, Bengals and Raiders are among Jackson's potential suitors. At least one player has commenced the recruiting process.

"I know a spot where you'll be much appreciated," Bengals cornerback Mike Hilton tweeted to Jackson on Wednesday.

If he does hit the open market,

Jackson will command a hefty payday, one that the Patriots may not be able (or willing) to afford. For reference, Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey signed a five-year, \$105 million extension in September 2020. His average annual value of \$21 million is the highest in the league. Others at the top include Buffalo's Tre'Davious White at four years, \$70 million, and New Orleans's Marshon Lattimore at five years, \$97.6 million.

Jackson proved to be essential to New England's defense last season, stepping up to replace Stephon Gilmore as the team's No. 1 cornerback. He recorded a team-high eight interceptions and 23 passes defended en route to his first Pro Bowl. According to Pro Football Reference, opposing quarterbacks registered a 46.8 passer rating and completed just 49.1% of passes when targeting a receiver Jackson was covering.

Since entering the league as an undrafted rookie in 2018, Jackson has a league-best 25 interceptions.

The Patriots don't appear to have much depth behind Jackson, as Jalen Mills is not a viable substitute in that role, Jonathan Jones functions best in the slot, 2019 second-round pick Joejuan Williams has been repeatedly burned in coverage, and 23-year-old Shaun Wade remains an unknown.

The chances of the Patriots drafting a cornerback this year were already high, and Jackson's departure would essentially guarantee those odds.

Letting Jackson walk for nothing, however, is a worst-case scenario for the Patriots. The franchise tag would allow them to keep multiple options on the table.

Under Belichick, the Patriots have used the franchise tag 10 times on nine players: kicker Adam Vinatieri in 2002 and 2005, safety Tebucky Jones in 2003,

cornerback Asante Samuel in 2007, quarterback Matt Cassel in 2009, defensive tackle Vince Wilfork in 2010, guard Logan Mankins in 2011, wide receiver Wes Welker in 2012, kicker Stephen Gostkowski in 2015, and guard Joe Thuney in 2020.

Four of those players (Vinatieri in 2005, Samuel, Welker and Thuney) played on the one-year tag before leaving in free agency the following season. Four (Vinatieri in 2002, Wilfork, Mankins and Gostkowski) signed multi-year extensions. Two (Jones and Cassel) were traded.

In the two most recent instances, the Patriots tagged Gostkowski and Thuney on the last possible day, which would be March 8 in Jackson's case.

The Patriots currently don't have enough salary-cap space for Jackson to even sign the franchise tag, so they would have to create room to do so. According to Over the Cap, the Patriots have \$8.3 million available.

If Jackson does end up signing the franchise tag, it won't be the first time he'll be playing on a "prove it" deal. Last offseason, the Patriots could have negotiated an extension with Jackson, then a restricted free agent, but instead tendered him at the second-round level for a one-year, \$3.4 million deal. Then, during the season, the Patriots offered him an extension, but the parties did not agree to terms.

With his contract situation remaining a talking point for almost two years now, Jackson has seemingly said all the right things.

"I love playing for the New England Patriots, playing under Coach Belichick," he said in November. "It's a place that gave me a chance from day one. I would love to be a New England Patriot for a long time."

NBA

Stan Van Gundy slams Knicks' 'arrogance' as Zion rumors still swirling

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

Stan Van Gundy, the last person to actually coach Zion Williamson in an NBA game, says the discussion about the superstar's relocation to New York is not only premature, it's indicative of false hopes created by the Knicks and the organization's continued "arrogance."

"It's possible," he said of Williamson going to the Knicks. "But listen, the Knicks have this thing and it's amazing. No matter how many times people have proven they don't want to play for the Knicks, the Knicks have this idea that everybody in the league wants to play for New York," Van Gundy told "The Dan Le Batard Show." "Now when is the last time it actually happened that somebody actually came and tried to get their way to New York? Like, never in the last 20 years? But still the Knicks and the Knicks fans think everybody is trying to get to the Knicks. I'm not saying (Zion) won't end up there — there's all kinds of ways people can end up somewhere — but this idea that everybody wants to be a New York Knick. I mean if that were the case then they wouldn't be as bad as they've been for the last 20 years."

There's renewed speculation about Williamson's desire to leave New Orleans after his former teammate, JJ Redick, labeled the 21-year-old as "detached" from the team. It's not exactly a startling revelation considering Williamson has been rehabbing an injury and ballooning in weight, but the Knicks have been at the forefront of the Williamson rumors.

Rose has ankle procedure: Point guard Derrick Rose had another procedure on his right ankle Friday, just as it appeared he was close to returning to the Knicks. Coach Tom Thibodeau said Rose wasn't in pain but was feeling discomfort. He had recently begun practicing fully after he had surgery on the ankle in December. "He actually went through practice pretty well," Thibodeau said. "So, just one of those things." No timetable was given for Rose's return, and Thibodeau said he had no details.



Stan Van Gundy, who was the last to coach Zion Williamson, above, in a game, says he can't foresee the star forward going to the Knicks in the near future. **DERICK HINGLE/AP**

Wrestling

from Page 1

Trumbull's Hayden Provencal in 4 minutes, 14 seconds.

Then it was Roberts' turn. He was the top seed and had to wrestle second-seeded Andrey Kosygin, a junior from Ridgefield.

Roberts pinned Kosygin in 2:21. "My finals match, I was told we weren't even in it, like, we were out of the race," he said. "I was just wrestling, just trying to win my first state championship."

"I pinned him and then people told me we tied Danbury and I was like, 'Wait, what? No way. How is that possible?' It was wild."

East Hartford and Danbury both scored 232 points, the first

time two teams tied for a title and the first time East Hartford won a wrestling state championship. The closest the Hornets had come was in 1987, when Albert was a junior 132-pounder and East Hartford finished second to NFA.

"Fairfield Warde was in it, too. Then there was a point when Warde was no longer there," Albert said of Saturday. "It was us and Danbury. You kind of almost stopped keeping score and said, 'All right, let's focus on the wrestler, have him do what he's got to do.'"

"Our last two guys pinned to win. Dravyn Roberts had the pin to make the miracle happen."

Danbury has been dominant in the sport, winning 21 of the last 25 Class LL titles, with only Xavier and Newtown disrupting the Hatters' streak over the last quar-

ter century.

East Hartford was 14th in Class LL in 2020, 12th in 2019 and fifth — its highest finish since 1987 — in 2018.

This season, the Hornets went 20-0 and had two freshmen — Roberts and 106-pounder Isaac Quiles — win class championships.

"I knew we were going to be good, but I didn't think we were going to be this good," said senior Xavier Quiles, Isaac's older brother and the Class LL 170-pound runner-up. "This team actually shocked me to be honest."

But it wasn't due to a miracle. The Hornets, who have five freshman and two sophomore starters, have had a youth program in town for the last eight years. Even though they're young, the Hornets

have plenty of experience.

"[Roberts'] father Tim is one of our youth coaches," Albert said. "It's a collective effort. It's our youth program, what we get these guys doing in the offseason. I'm appreciative of everybody who gives their time to help these kids do the best they can."

The State Open begins Saturday at Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven after a weather delay. The finals are Sunday at noon, and East Hartford hopes to be in the mix.

"It's not going to be easy," Albert said. "Simsbury is a tough school, Berlin. Danbury again. Xavier. It all depends on the matchups. It's going to be an uphill battle."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
Boston	35	26	.574	1 ½
Toronto	32	26	.552	3
Brooklyn	31	29	.517	5
New York	25	34	.424	10 ½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	38	21	.644	—
Charlotte	30	31	.492	9
Atlanta	28	31	.475	10
Washington	27	31	.466	10 ½
Orlando	14	47	.230	25

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	39	21	.650	—
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	3
Cleveland	35	24	.593	3 ½
Indiana	20	41	.328	19 ½
Detroit	14	45	.237	24 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	41	20	.672	—
Dallas	35	24	.593	5
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17
New Orleans	23	36	.390	17
Houston	15	44	.254	25

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	34	25	.576	2 ½
Minnesota	32	28	.533	5
Portland	25	35	.417	12
Oklahoma City	19	41	.317	18

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	49	10	.831	—
Golden State	43	17	.717	6 ½
L.A. Clippers	30	31	.492	20
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21 ½
Sacramento	22	39	.361	28

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 125, Toronto 93
Orlando 119, Houston 111
Oklahoma City 129, Indiana 125(OT)
San Antonio at Washington, late
Miami at New York, late
Philadelphia at Minnesota, late
Dallas at Utah, late
New Orleans at Phoenix, late
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, late
SATURDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Detroit, 12p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Memphis at Chicago, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Miami, 8p.m.
Washington at Cleveland, 8p.m.
Brooklyn at Milwaukee, 8:30p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9p.m.
THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Detroit 106, Cleveland 103
Boston 129, Brooklyn 106
Phoenix 124, Oklahoma City 104
Chicago 112, Atlanta 108
Minnesota 119, Memphis 114
Denver 128, Sacramento 110
Golden State 132, Portland 95

ODDS

NBA FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	SATURDAY UNDERDOG
Boston	10½	(215)	at Detroit
at Atlanta	2	(Off)	Toronto
at Miami	7½	(224½)	San Antonio
at Cleveland	6½	(Off)	Washington
Memphis	1	(236½)	at Chicago
at Milwaukee	9½	(234½)	Brooklyn
at Denver	8½	(Off)	Sacramento

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SATURDAY FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Purdue	3	at Michigan
at Toledo	13½	Miami (Ohio)
at Northeastern	5	Elon
Florida	10	at Georgia
at Oklahoma	3½	Oklahoma State
at Rhode Island	11	Duquesne
at Marquette	9	Butler
at Mississippi St.	6½	Vanderbilt
at Detroit Mercy	3½	Purdue Ft. Wayne
Furman	7½	at Citadel
North Carolina	4	at NC State
Pennsylvania	1½	at Dartmouth
at HOFSFTRIA	17½	William & Mary
Yale	2	at Cornell
North Dakota St.	10	at North Dakota
Texas	3	at West Virginia
at Arkansas	2	Kentucky
at Buffalo	15½	N. Illinois
at Arkansas	2	Kentucky
Dayton	9	at La Salle
at Kansas St.	3	Iowa State
at Davidson	11½	Fordham
New Mexico State	16½	at Chicago St.
at Oakland	1½	Cleveland St.
Clemson	1	at Boston Coll.
at Western Illinois	7½	Denver
at Miami	1½	Virginia Tech
at Ball St.	8	E. Michigan
at Ole Miss	2½	Texas A&M
at Charlotte	1	Florida Atlantic
at Chattanooga	9½	Samford
at Chattanooga	3	Indiana State
at North Texas	5½	Louisiana Tech
Towson	5½	at J. Madison
at Delaware	5½	UNC Wilmington
CSU Fullerton	3½	at UCSD
at Utah Valley	6	Cal Baptist
Weber State	7½	at N. Arizona
New Mexico	8	Air Force
at Drake	6	Southern Illinois
at Drexel	3	Charleston
at E. Carolina	1½	Tulsa
UCLA	15	at Oregon State
at Tennessee	3½	Auburn
at Virginia	7½	Florida State
VCU	5½	at UMass
Morehead St.	9½	at SIU-Edsville
Austin Peay	7½	at E. Illinois
Green Bay	5½	at IUPUI
Missouri State	12½	at Evansville
at SF Austin	4½	Abilene Chr.
Murray State	11	at SE Missouri
at Santa Clara	11	Portland
at Notre Dame	10	Georgia Tech
San Francisco	12	at San Diego
at Bowling Green	8½	W. Michigan
Duke	7	at Syracuse
St. Bonaventure	5½	at Saint Joseph's
Loyola Chicago	2	at Northern Iowa
Washington St.	4	at Washington
at Belmont	15½	Tennessee St.
Texas Tech	5½	at TCU
at Brown	15½	Columbia
at Alabama	10½	South Carolina
at Wake Forest	9	Louisville
at Wright State	12	Robert Morris
at Wofford	8½	Mercer
at Rice	13½	So. Mississippi
at Old Dominion	8	Fla. International
at Mid Tennessee	3	W. Kentucky
Kent State	9½	at C. Michigan
at Cincinnati	13	USF
at N. Kentucky	6	Youngstown St.
VMI	5	at W. Carolina
at Loy. Marymnt	6	Pacific
at Tarleton St.	12½	Lamar
at N. Colorado	1½	Idaho
at UC Riverside	1	UCSB
at UC Davis	9½	CSU Northridge
at Grand Canyon	6	Sam Houston
Arizona	10½	at Colorado
at UIC	6	Milwaukee
at Oral Roberts	6	South Dakota
at Wyoming	7½	Nevada
at Baylor	3	Kansas
at BYU	16½	Pepperdine
South Dakota St.	6½	at UMKC
at Bradley	10½	Valparaiso
at St. Thomas	6	Omaha
at LSU	13	Missouri
Stanford	1	at California
at Tenn. Tech	7	UT Martin
at Providence	5	Creighton
Seattle U	4½	at Dixie State
UAB	6½	at UTEP
Gonzaga	11	at St. Mary's
at Oregon	2	USC
E. Washington	4½	at Sacramento St.
at Portland St.	7½	Idaho State
at Utah	3	Arizona State
Boise State	1	at UNLV
at Utah State	2½	Colorado State
at UC Irvine	7	Long Beach St.
at Hawaii	5½	CSU Bakersfield

NHL FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
Washington	-188	at Philadelphia	+155
at Florida	-205	Edmonton	+172
at Pittsburgh	-176	N.Y. Rangers	+146
at Ottawa	-138	Montreal	+115
Tampa Bay	-152	at Nashville	+126
at Detroit	Off	Toronto	Off
at Calgary	-130	Minnesota	+108
Colorado	-126	at Las Vegas	+105
Boston	-154	at San Jose	+128
at Los Angeles	-113	N.Y. Islanders	+106
For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/			

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	52	35	12	5	75	215	157		
Tampa Bay	50	33	11	6	72	174	142		
Toronto	51	33	14	4	70	182	142		
Boston	51	30	17	4	64	148	141		
Detroit	52	23	23	6	52	149	181		
Ottawa	50	19	26	5	43	134	159		
Buffalo	52	16	28	8	40	138	186		
Montreal	52	12	33	7	31	121	197		
METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	51	36	11	4	76	180	121		
N.Y. Rangers	51	33	13	5	71	155	128		
Pittsburgh	53	31	14	8	70	174	146		
Washington	53	28	16	9	65	172	149		
Columbus	52	27	24	1	55	173	190		
N.Y. Islanders	47	19	20	8	46	119	132		
New Jersey	51	18	28	5	41	152	183		
Philadelphia	51	15	26	10	40	129	180		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	51	37	10	4	78	204	145		
St. Louis	50	30	14	6	66	179	138		
Minnesota	49	31	15	3	65	187	150		
Nashville	52	30	18	4	64	161	148		
Dallas	51	28	20	3	59	147	149		
Winnipeg	51	22	20	9	53	147	153		
Chicago	52	18	26	8	44	126	176		
Arizona	51	13	34	4	30	116	189		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	50	30	14	6	66	170	121		
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62	169	150		
Los Angeles	51	27	17	7	61	150	143		
Edmonton	51	28	20	3	59	171	166		
Anaheim	53	25	19	9	59	160	161		
Vancouver	53	25	22	6	56	147	149		
San Jose	51	23	22	6	52	138	161		
Seattle	54	16	33	5	37	139	193		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 4, Columbus 0
Buffalo at St. Louis, late
New Jersey at Chicago, late
Winnipeg at Colorado, late
Vegas at Arizona, late
Los Angeles at Anaheim, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Florida, 12:30p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 12:30p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 3p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Nashville
at Nissan Stadium, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Boston at San Jose, 10p.m.
Colorado at Vegas, 10p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 10p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Carolina, 1p.m.
Buffalo at Dallas, 2p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 3p.m.
Winnipeg at Arizona, 4p.m.
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 6p.m.
Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Anaheim, 8:30p.m.
Seattle at San Jose, 10p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Washington, 7:30p.m.
Vancouver at New Jersey, 7:30p.m.
Boston at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 6, Pittsburgh 1
Columbus 6, Florida 3
N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 1
Toronto 3, Minnesota 1
Nashville 2, Dallas 1(SO)
Boston 3, Seattle 2(OT)
Vancouver 7, Calgary 1
San Jose 4, N.Y. Islanders 3(SO)

WTA QATAR OPEN
At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, Doha, Qatar, outdoors-hard
WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
#4Anett Kontaveit d.
#15Ilena Ostapenko, 6-1, 6-4.
#7Iga Swiatek d.
#6Maria Sakkarri, 6-4, 6-3.

ATP CHILE OPEN
At Club Deportivo Universidad Catolica, Santiago, Chile, outdoor-Red clay
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#2Albert Ramos-Vinolas d.
#8Fucundo Bagnis, 7-5, 6-2.
#4 Pedro Martinez d.
Yannick Hanfmann, 6-2, 6-2.
Alejandro Tabilo d.
#6 Miomir Kecmanovic, 6-1, 6-4.
#7Sebastian Baez d.
Thiago Monteiro, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

WTA ABIERTO AKRON ZAPOCAN
At Panamerican Tennis Center, Guadaluajara, Mexico, outdoors-hardcourt
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
Anna Kalinskaya d.
#4 Camila Osorio, 6-4, 6-1.
Qiang Wang d.
Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, 6-2, 6-3.
#3 Sara Sorribes Tormo vs.
Marie Bouzkova, late
#6 Sloane Stephens vs.
Daria Saville, late

ATP ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL
At Arena GNP Seguros, Acapulco, Mexico; outdoors-hardcourt
MEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
#1 Daniil Medvedev vs.
#4 Rafael Nadal, late
#3 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs.
#6 Cameron Norrie, late

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	26	20	3	3	63	17	63
Liverpool	26	18	6	2	70	20	60
Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	50
Man United	26	13	7	6	44	34	46
Arsenal	24	13	7	4	38	27	45
West Ham	25	12	4	9	24	40	40
Wolverhampton	25	12	4	9	24	40	40
Tottenham	24	12	3	9	31	32	39
Southampton	26	8	11	7	34	37	35
Brighton	25	7	12	6	25	28	33
Crystal Palace	26	6	11	9	36	37	29
Leicester	23	7	6	10	37	43	27
Aston Villa	24	8	3	13	31	37	27
Brentford	26	6	6	14	27	42	24
Leeds	25	5	8	12	29	56	23
Everton	23	6	4	13	28	40	22
Newcastle	24	4	10	10	26	45	22
Burnley	23	3	11	9	21	29	20
Watford	25	5	3	17	25	47	18
Norwich	26	4	5	17	15	55	17

FRIDAY'S RESULT
Southampton 2, Norwich 0
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Leeds vs. Tottenham, 7:30a.m.
Brentford vs. Newcastle, 10a.m.
Brighton vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Burnley, 10a.m.
Man United vs. Watford, 10a.m.
Everton vs. Man City, 12:30p.m.
Arsenal vs. Liverpool, p.p.d.
SUNDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Wolverhampton, 9a.m.
Chelsea vs. Leicester, p.p.d.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 1p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 3:30p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles FC, 3:30p.m.
Toronto FC at FC Dallas, 5:30p.m.
FC Cincinnati at Austin FC, 6 p.m.
Chicago FC at D.C. United, 6p.m.
Charlotte at Inter Miami CF, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Red Bulls at San Jose, 6p.m.
New England at Portland, 7:30p.m.
SUNDAY'S MATCHES
CF Montreal at Orlando City SC, 1 p.m.
Sporting KC at Atlanta United FC, 3p.m.
New York FC at LA Galaxy, 5 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Houston, 7 p.m.
Nashville SC at Seattle FC, 8p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No. 1 Gonzaga (24-2) did not play.
Next: at No. 23Saint Mary's (Cal), Sat.
No. 2 Arizona (25-2) did not play.
Next: at Colorado, Saturday.
No. 3 Auburn (25-3) did not play.
Next: at No. 17Tennessee, Saturday.
No. 4 Purdue (24-4) did not play.
Next: at Michigan St., Saturday.
No. 5 Kansas (23-4) did not play.
Next: at No. 10Baylor, Saturday.
No. 6 Kentucky (23-5) did not play.
Next: at No. 18Arkansas, Saturday.
No. 7 Duke (24-4) did not play.
Next: at Syracuse, Saturday.
No. 8 Villanova (21-7) did not play.
Next: vs. No. 11Providence, Tuesday.
No. 9 Texas Tech (22-6) did not play.
Next: at TCU, Saturday.
No. 10 Baylor (23-5) did not play.
Next: vs. No. 5Kansas, Saturday.
No. 11 Providence (23-3) did not play.
Next: vs. Creighton, Saturday.
No. 12 UCLA (20-6) did not play.
Next: at Oregon St., Saturday.
No. 13 Wisconsin (22-5) did not play.
Next: at Rutgers, Saturday.
No. 14 Houston (23-4) did not play.
Next: vs. SMU, Sunday.
No. 15 Illinois (19-8) did not play.
Next: at Michigan, Sunday.
No. 16 USC (24-4) did not play.
Next

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: at Georgetown,
noon, CBS.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: vs. Providence)at
Gampel), 2 p.m., CBSSN

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

R&D

Coverage presented by

RisCASSI & DAVIS

P.C.

Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

Amore

from Page 1

for a few minutes late in each quarter and scoring eight points, a good start to her comeback from knee surgery. A few more minutes against Providence on Sunday, then a full week to practice for the Big East Tournament, and the reigning national player of the year should be good to go.

Now the Huskies (21-5), who had trouble fielding a team for some of their toughest midseason opponents, have more far more talent available than minutes. That's a problem any coach, including Geno Auriemma, has to love to have on his hands in March.

While Bueckers was gone for 10 weeks, the supporting cast grew. Olivia Nelson-Ododa looks like a more confident, aggressive player than ever. Evina Westbrook has found her voice coming off the bench, and so has Dorka Juhasz. Nika Muhl provides edge in the starting lineup. Christyn Williams is more productive now that she does not have to carry the team as she did earlier. Caroline Ducharme can take over a game at any moment, and so can Azzi Fudd with her perimeter shooting. Aaliyah Edwards is playing the way she did toward the end of last season, which is solid.

So the Huskies not only have everything, but at the moment have almost two of everything.

"The team that [Bueckers] came back to is not the same team that she left," Auriemma said. "The team that she came back to is a better team, with a better understanding of what we're trying to do, has more players that can do more things than the last time she played. So she gives them confidence."

Having clinched the Big East regular season title, this game against St. John's was a tune-up. The Huskies jumped out to a 17-0 lead before Bueckers made her long-awaited debut, and then it was a breeze, 51-19 at half-time. Don't look for the conference to challenge UConn again.

Everything points now to the NCAA Tournament. It's hard to imagine the selection committee sending them out west when they would offer a gate attraction in Bridgeport. I'm putting the metrics aside here and looking past the record. This team has earned the right to play in state as much as any UConn team has, because of what it has accomplished in light of what it has been through, all the injuries and disruptions.

Bueckers and Fudd, the back-to-back No. 1 recruits and best of friends, really haven't had the chance to play together. Even before Bueckers' injury, Fudd was dealing with a foot injury. Now there is the promise of them with both 100 percent. That's as exciting a prospect in Connecticut as it is scary elsewhere.

Fudd, who scored 19 Friday,

predicted the Huskies would be "nasty" when everyone was back. Is this what she envisioned?

"Not yet," she said. "Not yet. We're going to get better."

The top of the field of 68 will be loaded, with more teams capable of winning than ever. There is no question that South Carolina, which defeated a mostly-healthy UConn team in the Bahamas, is the team to beat until it's proved otherwise.

But South Carolina, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Oregon, the teams that caught the Huskies at a vulnerable time, knew then, and know now, that the narrative has changed. If the Huskies aren't the best team in the country right now, it's going to take the best team in the country to deny them championship No. 12.

"This is kind of like back in the old days now," Auriemma said. "Because of the injuries, they feel like they've built up a reserve. They're in better shape because they have played so many minutes. They're mentally a little better because of what they went through. I don't know what the future is going to be. Every other team is going to improve in the post-season, but we improved because of who we've added. I don't know that anyone else is adding somebody like Paige."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mulkey credits veteran buy-in for No. 8 LSU's sudden climb up polls

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU coach Kim Mulkey is still trying to temper expectations, even as she over- sees a dramatic one-year improvement in the No. 8 Tigers' fortunes.

LSU went 9-13 in a pandemic-shortened 2020-21 season, its last under previous coach Nikki Fargas.

On Thursday night, the Tigers improved to 24-4 this season, closing out their home slate with a 58-50 victory over Alabama — a result which guarantees LSU at least a share of second place in the Southeastern Conference, behind only the nation's top-ranked team, South Carolina.

LSU is virtually guaranteed to be back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2018 and might even host the first two rounds.

"Let me say this: We have not arrived as a program," Mulkey said. "Arriving as a program is doing this same thing many years in a row. "We were blessed as a staff to have come in here and inherited seniors that stayed and bought into what we were doing."

Mulkey said that in her experience, it's unusual for a new coaching staff to build the level of trust and chemistry with incumbent players as quickly as LSU did in a matter of months.

"That tells you a lot about them," she said. "They were hungry, and they believed in us, and they kickstarted what we hope to continue in the future."

Mulkey, 59, grew up in Louisiana and won national titles with Louisiana Tech as both a player and assistant coach before a 21-year run as coach at Baylor in which she won three national titles and became the fastest coach in women's college basketball history to 600 victories, doing so in just 700 games. In 2020, she was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Mulkey has said that leaving Baylor was difficult, but that the pull of her home state was too strong to resist after LSU athletic director Scott Woodward offered her the chance. Woodward also offered Mulkey an eight-year contract with an average annual value of about \$2.95 million.

Woodward has told the LSU Board of Supervisors' athletic committee that Mulkey's contract was right about what she was slated to make at Baylor, adding, "I couldn't ask her to take less, obviously."

LSU has been led this season by Khayla Pointer, a fifth-year Tiger who

elected to use an extra year of eligibility granted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 5-foot-7 guard is now on the watch-lists for national player of the year awards, averaging 19 points.

Pointer nearly had a triple-double against Alabama, with 23 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and three steals before a large, energized crowd in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

While the Tigers had winning records in three of Pointer's previous four seasons, they largely hovered around .500 in conference play until this season. They're 12-3 in the SEC this season with one game remaining at No. 16 Tennessee on Sunday.

"When we first found out coach was coming here, we were all just like, 'Wow,'" Pointer said. "That was our first reaction because, I mean, Hall of Fame coach Kim Mulkey here. We couldn't believe that she was coming to be a part of our program. We were excited. We didn't know what to think, didn't now what to feel, but decided to trust the process."

"It really made it memorable for us. Who would have thought it would be the year that we're having? ... We've never been top 10. We've never played in front of all these fans."

Center Faustine Aifuwa said when she first found out Mulkey would be her coach, "I didn't believe it."

The 6-foot-5 Aifuwa said the confidence Mulkey showed in returning Tigers when she arrived has helped them improve without a major overhaul.

Mulkey brought in three transfers. Two of them — 6-2 forward Autumn Newby from Baylor and 5-6 guard Alexis Morris from Texas A&M — are starters. But three starters — Pointer, Aifuwa and 5-8 guard Jalin Cherry — were already at LSU.

"I think that was the biggest thing," Aifuwa said. "Sometimes coaches come in, they try to change everything,"

Mulkey "just kept instilling that confidence and it continued on the whole season," Aifuwa said.

Pointer, Aifuwa, Cherry and Newby are all graduate students.

"These guys leave when this is all over — whenever that is — and then you have to look at your roster," Mulkey said. "You have to have some level of two, three, four and five years of consistency to say the program is back."

"We're having a great year, but I don't want people to think we're feeding a monster all of a sudden. You're having seniors that, they're just playing their rear ends off."

Bueckers

from Page 1

Olivia Nelson-Ododa.

Bueckers rose from the bench at 7:17 p.m., as the crowd noise began to build. With UConn leading 19-4 and 3:41 left in the first quarter, she entered the game to a long standing ovation as game day host Conor Geary introduced her.

"It's been tough, mentally, physically," Bueckers said. "I'd never missed out during a season with an injury for me."

Bueckers picked up a couple of rebounds, then on the last possession of the quarter, she took the ball downcourt, juked past a defender, briefly lost the ball, but recovered and hit a jump shot to beat the buzzer. She marched over to the student section to celebrate her first basket.

"I turned to [assistant coach] Jamelle Elliott and said, 'That had to happen,'" Auriemma said. "She did Paige things."

Said Bueckers: "The first basket? I wouldn't be me if it wasn't something extra. That was fun."

The national player of the year as a freshman, Buecker was averaging 21 points when she fell awkwardly during the final minute of the sixth game of the season, a victory over Notre Dame. Diagnosed with an anterior tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear, she underwent surgery on Dec. 13 and began the long rehab process.

She remained in the game as the second quarter began, exiting after 1:32. Her first stint in the game was 4:53, with two points, two rebounds and an assist. She returned with 1:50 to play in the half and added another field goal, a one-handed runner off the glass. The Huskies led 51-19



UConn's Aaliyah Edwards, from left, Azzi Fudd and Dorka Juhasz cheer from the bench in the second half of Friday's victory over St. John's. The Huskies are returning to full strength just in time for the postseason. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

UConn 93, ST. JOHN'S 38										
St. John's	M	FG	FT	RB	APF	PT				
Bailler	28	3-9	1-2	0	2	0	9			
Clegg	23	2-4	4-5	1	1	0	9			
Correa	29	3-8	0-0	5	0	0	7			
Cosgrove	23	2-6	0-1	2	0	3	4			
Peebles	28	1-7	0-0	8	0	0	2			
Zabrecky	13	1-5	0-0	0	1	1	3			
Patterson	22	1-5	0-0	1	0	0	2			
Drake	20	1-7	0-0	2	2	0	2			
Gines	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0			
Burton	5	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0			
Nolan	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0			
TOTALS	-	14-53	5-8	23	6	5	38			
Three-point goals: 5-24, 20.8 (Bailler 2-4, Clegg 1-3, Correa 1-3, Cosgrove 0-3, Patterson 0-3, Drake 0-4), FG pct.: 26.4, FT pct.: 62.5. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 19 (Bailey 5, Clegg 4, Patterson 3, Correa 2, Cosgrove 2, Drake 2, Zabrecky). Blocks: 4 (Patterson 2, Cosgrove, Peebles). Steals: 5 (Bailey 2, Peebles 2, Zabrecky).										

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	APF	PT				
Fudd	20	7-9	0-0	3	1	0	19			
Edwards	19	8-10	0-0	7	2	1	13			
Williams	24	5-7	1-2	4	1	2	13			
Nelson-Ododa	23	5-6	2-2	4	4	1	13			
Muhl	25	1-2	0-0	3	3	2	3			
Ducharme	24	6-13	0-0	2	2	2	13			
Bueckers	13	4-5	0-0	2	1	0	8			
Juhasz	15	2-3	0-0	4	3	0	4			
Gabriel	8	2-6	0-0	1	0	1	4			
Westbrook	25	0-0	0-0	7	10	1	0			
DeBerry	4	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0			
TOTALS	-	40-63	3-4	41	27	10	93			
Three-point goals: 10-21, 47.6 (Fudd 5-7, Williams 2-3, Nelson-Ododa 1-1, Muhl 1-2, Ducharme 1-5, Juhasz 0-1, DeBerry 0-2), FG pct.: 63.5, FT pct.: 75.0. Team rebounds: 4. Turnovers: 13 (Williams 3, Edwards 2, Muhl 2, Gabriel 2, Westbrook 2, Juhasz, Team). Blocks: 11 (Nelson-Ododa 3, Juhasz 3, Williams 2, Fudd, Edwards, DeBerry). Steals: 13 (Muhl 5, Westbrook 2, Fudd, Edwards, Williams, Nelson-Ododa, Ducharme, Juhasz).										
St. John's	8	11	9	10	-	38				
UConn	30	21	27	15	-	93				
Officials: Smith, Spurlock-Welsh, Brewton. Att.: 9,154 at XL Center, Hartford.										

at the break.

In the third quarter, Bueckers scored twice

more before calling it a night with 12 minutes played. By then, her team-

mates had the game well in hand; in fact, it was well in hand before she checked in the first time. UConn began the game with a 17-0 run, Fudd scoring eight points.

Fudd went 7-for-9 in the game to finish with 19. Edwards added 16, with seven rebounds. Caroline Ducharme, Nelson-Ododa and Williams each added 13 points and Evina Westbrook had 10 assists. UConn (21-5, 15-1 Big East) outshot the Red Storm 63.5% to 26.4%, and outrebounded them 41-23. St. John's is 11-17, 7-11.

"We have a different kind of energy with Paige back," Fudd said. "It was a lot of fun today."

Talks

from Page 1

He walked back about 20 minutes later.

The day included three negotiating sessions, a high for any day this week.

In an effort to address the union's claim that teams are giving up on winning in an effort to gain a top pick in

the amateur draft, MLB had proposed the top selections be determined by a lottery, such as the NBA began in 1985 and the NHL a decade later.

MLB has offered to have the first four picks determined by a lottery in which the teams with the three lowest winning percentages would have the best chances of getting the top pick. The union asked for the first

seven selections to be sorted by lottery.

The sides exchanged proposals Friday on the number of lottery picks, adjustments and penalties restrictions and moved closer to agreement on a format. For the first time in months of negotiations, there was immediate back and forth. MLB made a proposal, the union caucused and coun-

tered, and management is to respond Saturday.

Discussions also covered other areas and were described as spirited and at times emotional.

Management's delegation included Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner, Colorado CEO Dick Monfort, Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and Executive Vice President Morgan

Sword.

Clark led players who included Max Scherzer, Andrew Miller and Zack Britton from the union's eight-man executive subcommittee.

Players have not accepted Monday as a deadline and have suggested any missed games could be made up as part of doubleheaders, a method MLB said it will not agree to.

Once Monday passes, the length of the schedule would become yet another issue in the dispute along with possible lost pay and service time.

The union has told MLB if games are missed and salaries are lost, clubs should not expect players to agree to management's proposals to expand the postseason and to allow advertisements on uniforms and helmets.

Did you know?

If you are injured in an accident, finding a law firm with Board Certified attorneys increases the likelihood your case will have a successful outcome.

riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut
860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

R&D

RisCASSI & DAVIS
P.C.
Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Aikman set to leave Fox for MNF



NFL free agency doesn't begin for a few more weeks, however business is about to pick up when it comes to shuffling among the network broadcast teams with perhaps the biggest surprise of them all. Troy Aikman is expected to become the lead analyst on ESPN's "Monday Night Football" after 22 years with Fox. The New York Post reported that Aikman will sign a five-year deal that would rival the \$17.5 million per year Tony Romo is making at CBS. ESPN and Fox had no comment on Aikman's future. Aikman has been with Joe Buck on Fox's top crew since 2002, but there have been rumblings the past couple of months that the Hall of Fame quarterback had been looking to move on. Many thought that Aikman would join Al Michaels at Amazon, which takes over "Thursday Night Football" next season. Instead, it is ESPN, which has its star quarterback after falling short with Romo and Peyton Manning in recent seasons. Steve Levy, Brian Griese and Louis Riddick have done the main broadcast the past two seasons. Michaels could take another look at ESPN now that it has Aikman.

Rinne's No. 35 1st retired by Preds



Pekka Rinne can't wait to bring his 1-year-old son Paulus back to Nashville in a few years and share stories from his playing days. The highlight? Pointing to his No. 35 hanging in the rafters. "It gives me goosebumps to even think about it," Rinne said Thursday night. The goaltender who led the Predators to their lone Stanley Cup Final in 2017 added another first to his list of accomplishments. He became the first player to have his jersey retired by the organization in a nearly hourlong ceremony before Thursday night's game against the Stars. "This memory will stay with me the rest of my life," Rinne said. The Predators also announced Rinne will be honored with a bronze statue outside Bridgestone Arena that will be unveiled during the 2022-23 season. Rinne emerged from the oversized Predators' mascot head that the team skates through when it enters the ice as fans chanted, "Pekka! Pekka!" He walked past the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl, the franchise's lone Presidents' Trophy and his Vezina and King Clancy trophies to a stage on one blue line.

IOC calls to cancel events in Russia



The International Olympic Committee urged sports bodies Friday to cancel or move all events they plan to hold in Russia and Belarus, and stop using the countries' flags and national anthems. Russia breached the Olympic Truce by invading Ukraine on Thursday, only four days after the closing ceremony of the Winter Games in Beijing. Some of the Russian troops entered Ukraine from Belarus, Russia's ally. It was the third Russian breach of the Olympic Truce in the past 14 years. Russia invaded Georgia during the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and annexed Crimea shortly after the end of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. The IOC statement signaled a toughening of the Olympic body's position on Russia. IOC president Thomas Bach, pictured, has long been seen as forgiving of Russian doping scandals and too close to Putin. Bach implored countries to "give peace a chance" in his opening and closing ceremony speeches in Beijing as Putin — who went to China and attended the Feb. 4 opening ceremony — sent troops and military hardware to the borders of Ukraine in Russia and Belarus. —AP



The Champions League final has been moved from Russia to the Stade de France in Paris due to the Ukraine invasion. **AP FILE**

UKRAINE INVASION

Shoulder to shoulder

Russia loses UCL final to Paris, while Sochi F1 axed

By Rob Harris
Associated Press

LONDON — The invasion of Ukraine drew more punitive measures across the sporting world on Friday when Russia was stripped of the Champions League final in St. Petersburg and Formula One dropped the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi. The International Olympic Committee also urged sports federations to move their events out of Russia or Belarus, which Moscow is using as a staging ground for its troops moving into Ukraine from the north. The IOC statement signaled an ostracising of President Vladimir Putin, who has lavishly funded sports events and was still courted by IOC President Thomas Bach and FIFA President Gianni Infantino despite the country corrupting sport with state-sponsored dopingschemes in the last decade. But the backlash against the embrace of Russian state-owned companies as sponsors in sports has seen Manchester United drop Aeroflot's commercial deal. The English Premier League giant cited "events in Ukraine" after the airline was banned in Britain as part of sanctions against Putin's regime. While UEFA is still working on cutting Gazprom as a Champions League sponsor, the final will no longer be staged at the St. Petersburg stadium named after the Russian state-owned energy firm. The climax to the European men's football season will still be in Paris, still on May 28, but at the 80,000-seat Stade de France.

It followed discussions led by UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin that involved the European Commission and French President Emmanuel Macron in recent days after concerns were raised about the status of Russia retaining such a prestigious event after its aggression toward another European country. UEFA thanked Macron for his "personal support and commitment to have European club football's most prestigious game moved to France at a time of unparalleled crisis." Alexander Dyukov, a Russian member of the UEFA executive committee, complained the decision was taken for "political reasons." Dyukov also opposed UEFA ordering Russian clubs and national teams to play at neutral venues until further notice — a ruling also imposed on Ukrainian sides. The move came as Russian bombs and troops pounded Ukraine during the invasion's first full day, and world leaders on Friday began to fine-tune a response meant to punish the Russian economy and its leaders, including Putin's inner circle. The IOC had already condemned Russia for breaching the Olympic Truce, days after the end of the Beijing Winter Games and ahead of the Paralympics. Russia's name, flag and anthem are already barred from the March 4-13 Paralympics in Beijing over previous doping disputes. Its team is due to compete as RPC, short for Russian Paralympic Committee. Now the IOC is asking events not subject to the WADA doping sanctions to no longer display the Russian or Belarusian national flags or play their anthems. The F1 race wasn't due until September in the Black Sea resort of Sochi

but the motorsport series leadership decided it would be "impossible" to stage the grand prix after talks with teams and the FIA governing body. American team Haas also dropped the sponsorship of Russian company Uralkali during preseason testing in Barcelona. Nikita Mazepin of Haas is the only Russian driver on the F1 grid this season. "We are watching the developments in Ukraine with sadness and shock and hope for a swift and peaceful resolution to the present situation," F1 said in a statement. Sochi and St. Petersburg stand to lose tens of millions of dollars in losing out on hosting the Champions League final and the Russian GP, respectively. Champions League finals can generate more than \$50 million for host cities. There's also the non-monetary value of staging big events, including a lift to tourism, more jobs and better visibility and image on the worldwide stage. There is the unresolved matter of Russia still being due to host Poland in World Cup soccer qualifying playoff semifinals in Moscow. Poland wants the game taken out of Russia, but FIFA has yet to decide. UEFA is also working with the French government on helping to rescue footballers and their families from Ukraine. UEFA has two weeks before the next set of Champions League games to resolve the issue of Gazprom adverts flashing around stadium pitches. Reinforcing the company's close links to UEFA, Dyukov is a CEO of a Gazprom subsidiary as well as sitting on European football's top decision-making body. Gazprom's logo has already been removed this week from the jerseys of German club Schalke but it remains a sponsor.

GOLF

Berger moves atop Honda leaderboard

By Tim Reynolds | Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Daniel Berger no longer needs to answer questions about how his back his feeling. The scorecard is telling the story. Berger — playing what amounts to a home tournament for him, with his residence a 15-minute drive away in Jupiter — was the early leader through two rounds of the Honda Classic, after shooting a second consecutive 65 on Friday to move clear of the field before the afternoon wave of players took the course. "You get your mom's cooking, you get to sleep in your own bed," Berger said. "It's pretty comfortable." Chris Kirk also made an early move on Friday, with his round of 68 getting him to 7 under for the week and three shots off Berger's pace. Berger's 10-under 130 is tied for the third-lowest score through 36 holes since the Honda moved to PGA National in 2007; Aaron Wise was 12 under through two rounds last year, Rory McIlroy was 11 under at the midway point in 2014 and Brendon De Jonge was 10 under that same year. None of them went on to win. McIlroy lost in a playoff to Russell Henley, Wise shot 75-73 on the weekend to finish tied for 13th and De Jonge went 76-78 on the weekend to freefall all the way to a tie for 63rd. That said, Berger is showing no signs of trouble so far this week. And Honda just suits him; he's had a pair of top-five finishes here in six previous starts, including finishing second to Padraig Harrington in a Monday playoff to decide the winner in 2015. "Every tournament I play in I want to win," Berger said. "But it would be especially nice to win here having so many friends and family here with me this week. But you just can't focus on that. You've just got to take it a shot at a time and really just stay patient because it is such a challenging golf course." Berger had a five-birdie, zero-bogey opening round on Thursday and was nearly as flawless on Friday, with six birdies and one bogey. The only stroke he gave back was on the par-3 15th, his sixth hole of the day, when his tee ball landed in a bunker and he wound up missing a 15-foot par putt. If his lead holds — and with PGA National's traditional wind expected to pick up in the afternoon, it certainly might — it would be Berger's first 36-hole lead in a PGA Tour event since the Travelers Championship in August 2016. He is a four-time winner on tour, most recently at Pebble Beach in 2021. But the back issues that flared up in recent weeks kept him from playing Pebble this year and defending that title. He played the Phoenix Open two weeks ago, testing his back and declaring afterward that he would be good to play at PGA National — a place where he played a ton of junior golf — and get a home week at the Honda. So far, so good. Very good, in fact. "It took actually longer than I thought it was to feel better," Berger said. "Six, seven years ago I felt like I could have broken my ankle and 10 days later I would have been fine. But I'm getting older now and even at 28 I don't feel the way I used to feel, shockingly, but that's thousands and thousands of golf swings later, so it's just part of the job." Among those going off in the afternoon wave Friday were first-round leader Kurt Kitayama, who was 6 under in Round 1, and another Honda fan favorite and South Florida native, Brooks Koepka.

Divots: Louis Oosthuizen, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 13 in the world, rallied for a 65 on Friday — 10 shots better than his opening round — and got to even-par 140. He started on the back side, made a double-bogey 6 on his second hole (the par-4 11th) to move to 7 over, then had seven birdies and nine pars the rest of the way. ... Doug Ghim had five consecutive 5s on the front side. Problem was, three of those holes were par-4s and one was a par-3. He shot 77. ... Defending champion Matt Jones struggled again, shooting 74 and ensuring he'd miss the weekend at 7 over.



Daniel Berger watches his shot from the 16th tee during the second round of the Honda Classic golf tournament on Friday in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. **LYNNE SLADKY/AP**

The total package

Lexus NX is a car that is not only defiantly different — but competently so



The new Lexus NX350h has a hybrid drive system that pairs a 2.5-liter four-cylinder gas engine with two electric drive motor generators, achieving a combined 239 horsepower. LEXUS PHOTOS

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

Lexus isn't letting up. Six years ago, Toyota's conservatively-dressed luxury brand went full punk with its 2015 NX. The compact SUV threw caution to the wind, stepping out of the shadow of fashion mavens like Audi and Merc and redefining its style with slashing bodywork and a face only Darth Vader could love. Lexus called it the spindle grille; I called it a giant bug zapper.

It put Lexus on the map for a new generation of buyers, and the NX's polarizing style has been followed by subsequent models in the lineup. When I first tested the NX in 2014, I assumed the "look-at-me" design would be temporary, writing: The NX will surely mellow over time. But for now it demands attention like a gorgeous model wearing a spiked mohawk. Will punk work on a luxury fashion runway that includes elegant models like the Lincoln MKC and BMW X3? Boy, did I get that wrong. Not only was the new Lexus face a hit, but others in the industry followed its lead. Look no further than Bimmer, which has introduced a bucktoothed mega-grille on its 4-series coupe that you can see from space. The BMW X3, an NX competitor, is sure to follow. The NX's jack-o'-lantern face is back for 2022 with the vehicle's first major redesign since the 2015 model frightened trick-or-treaters everywhere. But like Cadillac's radical Art & Science grilles at the turn of the 21st century, Lexus designers have made some nips and tucks to improve the original orgy of plastic surgery. The checkmark running lights, for example, are now nicely integrated into the headlights, and the jowls have been tightened around the jawbone. Much better. The rear taillights are fashionable, connected by a horizontal light bar, and the SUV's rocker panels are leaner, less pronounced. Paint my \$50,075 tester in Grecian Water blue with red interior and the Lexus isn't for the timid. In an age of look-alike utes, I applaud the



Two giant knobs anchor the Lexus screen, allowing for simple climate control, says writer Henry Payne.

NX's experimentation with exterior design. The Lexus may be loud, but it's got attitude. Unfortunately, NX was also part of a less helpful trend inside: touchpads. Luxury makers are not shy in pushing new infotainment tools in this electronics age — whether Tesla's big touch screens or BMW's remote rotary dials. First rule of innovation: the tools must work. Trying to mimic a mouse pad on a desktop, automakers like Lexus made screen controls unworkable while the car was in motion. (Imagine your desk moving over Detroit streets while you try to operate a mousepad.) Mrs. Payne refused to operate the NX pad even from the passenger seat. I solved the issue (as I suspect most owners did) by only using the device when stationary — or just bypassing it via the voice command button on the steering wheel. Lexus appears to have gotten the message from customers. The 2022 NX350h is much more livable, with a giant 14-inch touch screen and easy controls. It removes a huge barrier between driver and car because the NX is really a pleasant place to spend time. I jumped into the NX for a trip

across Oakland County's lake country and jabbed the easy-to-locate ON button high on the dash. Armed with the latest in smart-phone connectivity, NX wirelessly detected my Android phone, which gave me the option of putting my Google Maps route on the giant center screen. Option taken. Phone navigation systems are generally superior to in-car systems, with the exception of Tesla and Mercedes. Lexus has made big improvements to its human machine interface, however, and the 14-inch field was not only easier to work as a touch screen, but also easier to navigate when selecting and saving radio stations. Two giant knobs — closely resembling the Ford Mustang Mach-E's signature scalloped screen control knob — anchor the Lexus screen, allowing for simple climate control. The volume knob, interestingly, is less dramatically designed — but placed in the center of the dash for access from anywhere in the front cabin. After years of customers running screaming from their cars, Lexus appears to have spent some quality time with them to make the system user friendly. Less friendly is the console gear shifter, which seems to have caught

a case of the notches from an old nemesis: Toyota's automatic shifter. Nissan and VW do similar compact "chiclet" shifters much better. With the infotainment bugs worked out, owners can concentrate on the NX350h's hybrid driving experience, which has been superb from the get-go. Not only did my 6'5" frame fit easily into the front buckets, but I could sit behind myself in the rear seat with knee room to spare — a rarity in the compact segment. The Lexus rides on parent Toyota's excellent Global Architecture, and instills confidence with neutral handling and little head toss. Then Lexus spices the menu with four powertrain options. The base \$39K NX250 starts with a 203-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder; the NX350 has a 275-horse turbo-charged 2.4-liter; the top-drawer plug-in hybrid NX450h gets 302 ponies — and then there's my NX350h hybrid sitting in the sweet spot, pairing two electric motors with the 2.5-liter four-cylinder for 239 horsepower and all-wheel-drive versatility. The NX350h further tempts bad behavior with paddle shifters on the steering column and a fat Drive Mode button on the console. Dial the mode selector to SPORT and the instrument panel glows red in devilish anticipation. Go on, Payne, floor me! Gladly. Long a missionary for hybrid fuel efficiency, Lexus also uses its electric motors for smooth driving dynamics. Where turbo-charged four-cylinder engines often lag off corners, the hybrid's motor picks up the slack, making for instant acceleration. The NX350h doesn't rival the Mazda CX-5 or BMW X1 for best-handling SUV, but the spirit is there. "Under Akio Toyoda's stated directive to invigorate Toyota products with energy, passion and "Waku-Doki" (translation: a palpable heart-pounding sense of excitement), the approval process has been streamlined," Toyota announced in 2014. What began as an exterior design statement has now made its way through the interior design and drivetrain systems. For the first time, the Lexus feels like the total package. A car that is not only defiantly different — but competently so.

Half of all cars arriving at dealers are already sold, AutoNation says

By Neal E. Boudette
The New York Times

The tight supplies of new and used cars that have damped auto sales and pushed prices higher have not eased and are likely to linger well into this year, according to AutoNation, the country's largest automotive retailer. Half of all new Chevrolets, Fords, Toyotas and other major brands arriving on dealer lots in the next 90 days are already sold, Auto-

Nation said. The market is even tighter for luxury cars: Nearly three out of four of those cars arriving at dealers in the next three months will be "pre-sold" — meaning a customer has paid a deposit and is waiting to buy the car as soon as it arrives. "This tight-inventory situation is going to be around certainly through the first half," said AutoNation's chief executive, Mike Manley. "I'm hoping we do see some improvement in

the second half." Selling cars before they arrive from the assembly plant is a substantial change from the traditional industry practice of stocking dealers with hundreds or even thousands of vehicles that can sit for months before they are sold. It also means automakers will have a long road to restocking dealer lots with new vehicles. The shortage stems from the early days of the pandemic, in 2020, when

auto plants shut down for nearly two months. The problem was compounded by a shortage of computer chips, which has forced manufacturers over the past 12 months to idle plants temporarily for weeks at a time. The tight supply has enabled dealers to sell cars at their full list price, or even more. "The profitability that we've been able to develop puts us in a good position," Manley said.



The tight supply has enabled dealers to sell cars at their full list price, or even more. BRANDON BELL/GETTY



The price for the 2022 Bugatti Chiron Super Sport starts at \$3.8 million. BUGATTI

AUTO REVIEW

'22 Bugatti Chiron could be last of great gas-powered car

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

It's a roar, an evil symphony of air and fuel being ingested and combusted, producing power and forward momentum that generates G-force rarely experienced outside of an amusement-park ride or a rocket launch. Its purpose is to transport you, but little will prepare you for its true capability.

It's the 16-cylinder 2022 Bugatti Chiron Super Sport, the ultimate expression of internal combustion-powered cars — one last howl of unearthly, audacious delight as gasoline-powered cars begin their denouement into history.

The 2022 Bugatti Chiron does, with 1,578 horsepower and 1,180 pound-feet of torque fed to all four wheels in a body that's built for sin. The front half of the car is painted, and the rear half is carbon fiber, offered in different colors. The front end is encapsulated with a radical art deco arch that recalls the most fetching Bugatti GTs of the 1930s.

The Chiron Super Sport's bespoke Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires are good for 310 mph, although Bugatti electronically limits top speed to 273 mph. So it's not as fast as its sibling,

2022 Bugatti Chiron Super Sport

Base price: \$3,825,000; \$4,301,450 as tested
Engine: 8.0-liter quad-turbocharged W-16
Horsepower/torque: 1,578/1,180 pound-feet of torque
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 8/11 mpg
Observed fuel economy: 8.2 mpg
Fuel required: Premium
Length/width/height: 188.7 / 80.2 / 47.7 inches

the Chiron Super Sport 300+ and it's a little less handling-focused than its other sibling, the Chiron Pur Sport. It's a bit of a mashup of the two, a Chiron that uses a slightly different rubber compound and suspension setup, particularly in the rear. Finally, its engine isn't as peaky, delivering its 1,180 pound-feet of torque lower in the rev range, at 2,000 rpm.

The power is funneled through a seven-speed, twin-clutch gearbox. Bugatti also fits the car with several driving modes. Standard driving mode is EB mode, but there are Autobahn and Handling driving modes as well. There's also a Lift mode, that raises the car's ride height for traversing speed bumps and radically

sloping driveways. The center console houses simple, elegant electronic knobs for controlling the climate, but you won't find an infotainment touch screen. Given this car's proclivities, why would you want one? The car is the entertainment. Superlatives are useless to describe the Chiron's acceleration; it's positively brutal, like a turbo-charged Panzer division. Yet despite its power, it's surprisingly undemanding to drive.

Bugatti is making 500 Chiron Super Sports, and they no doubt are among the last of the breed. The company was recently acquired by Rimac, a Croatian electric supercar start-up.

The price for this slice of history starts at \$3.8 million, with our test car coming in at \$4.3 million. The \$476,450 you can spend on options is enough to buy a 2022 Lamborghini Huracán STO.

Even for those who can afford such pricey rides, these numbers warp the mind. They're incomprehensibly large, like the size of the national debt.

But it's a rare treat for those lucky enough to afford one. And make no mistake: For this kind of money, you could get an original Bugatti — and not the remake.

Do I need power steering fluid?



Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: Recently I had my oil changed on my 2018 Honda Accord Touring and, on the receipt of services rendered, the power steering fluid box was crossed out. I assume that meant it didn't apply. I researched a little and saw it has "electric" power steering. But I found conflicting info. One place said there is fluid, and it should be changed every 75,000 miles, but the owner's manual doesn't mention power steering fluid.

— D.T., Palatine, Illinois

A: There is no fluid. Instead of a hydraulic pump and fluid, there is an electric motor providing the assist.

Q: I have a 2009 Chevy Cobalt that has the alloy wheels. I have lost two of the center caps on two of the wheels. I have seen other Cobalts in my area that are also missing a center cap. Just wondering if the caps tend to fall off over time or is someone stealing them off the car.

— J.B., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: Wheel center caps commonly lose their grip over the years. They are not worth stealing. However, you can find replacement caps. If you shop around, you will find generic caps and others with logos such as BMW, Cadillac, American flags and more. They may not be a perfect fit, but you might be able to modify them. Wouldn't it be cool if your car appears to have Maserati wheels?

Q: How much does it cost to recharge an electric car? I know it depends on the price of a kilowatt-hour, but I have



DREAMSTIME

never seen a comparison to a tank of gas, which depends on the cost per gallon. Is the industry purposely hiding this from us? — D.A., Lincolnwood, Illinois

A: The price per kilowatt-hour (KWH) is a major factor and many utility companies' rates vary by time of day (e.g., lower at night) and even the time of year (e.g., higher in summer).

Power companies may even offer special EV rates. It may cost \$20-40 per week to charge a car. This does not include the price for a home charger and its installation.

Rates per minute at public charging stations vary and usually include a connection fee.

Compare your miles traveled and price per gallon of gas.

Q: I have a 2021 Ram pickup with a V6 engine and an 8-speed transmission. It only gets 18 mpg on the highway. What can I do to increase mileage? — T.Z., Two Harbors, Minnesota

A: The estimated, yes estimated, fuel economy is 19 mpg in the city and 24 mpg on the highway. As they say, "your mileage may vary." Do you religiously zero the fuel economy readout every time you hit the road? There are many other variables to consider.

Do you carry an antique anvil collection? Do you have a lead foot? Is there a greater gravity in Minnesota? Do I have a good answer? No.

Q: My daughter has a 2017 Hyundai Elantra with aluminum rims. She has had to buy two rims recently at a cost of \$600 each because the rims had gotten bent. Her dealer told her that she could not get steel rims for her car. But I cannot prove it. Is that true?

— J.D., Leesburg, Florida

A: If the car has 16-inch or 17-inch wheels, there are no steel replacements of which I am aware. There is an alternative to new wheels from Hyundai: reconditioned wheels. They are often about half the price of new ones.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



Give the Gift of the Day
They Were Born

Front page prints from the Hartford Courant celebrating the birthday of someone special.

SHOP NOW at
courant.com/birthday
or call (866) 545-3534

Hartford Courant
— STORE —



SCAN ME WITH YOUR
PHONE CAMERA TO SHOP!

Hartford Courant
EXTRA
FLAVOR



For Customer Service
Starts & Stops
Call 860-525-5555

Scan with your Smartphone to
shop at the Hartford Courant
Store mobile website

PO Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569 • Please deliver in home February 24 and February 25 "NON-MACH"

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hartford Courant

Cooking more at home? Want the latest on the hottest restaurants? Want to share that new recipe?

Join the Courant's cooking club online at www.facebook.com/groups/CourantCookingClub to share recipes, tips and take part in exclusive cooking demonstrations and live Q&As.

You can also get the latest on the restaurant scene and dining trends in Connecticut mailed directly to your inbox by subscribing to the Courant's Food & Drink newsletter. Please go to courant.com/newsletters for more information.

A CROWD-PLEASING HOT CHICKEN SALAD

By Naz Deravian
The New York Times

A quintessential American casserole, hot chicken salad is timeless, a comfort food that never disappoints and comes together in no time. It takes the components of a classic chicken salad, tops it off with something salty and crisp, and bakes in the oven until warm, bubbly, creamy and crunchy.

While it's difficult to pinpoint the dish's provenance, as early as the late 1890s, recipes appear in community cookbooks from Kentucky, the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee, to the Midwest and even parts of the Northwest.

With each recipe, the filling and toppings vary. The main components are cooked chicken (a cut-up rotisserie or poached chicken works great), mayonnaise, celery, grated cheese, lemon juice and slivered almonds for texture.

To this mix, you can also add water chestnuts, pimiento, onion, mushrooms, cooked eggs or canned cream of chicken soup, a stalwart of casserole recipes.

In the 1951 edition of "The Joy of Cooking," the first time hot chicken salad appeared in the book, the dish included a béchamel sauce.

Toppings can include breadcrumbs, crackers or cornflakes. But in the 1960s, when, according to Ronni Lundy, author of "Victuals: An Appalachian Journey, With Recipes," warm or hot salads became popular, potato chips started appearing as a topping. They also finish this version, turning the dish into something that sends everyone rushing to the table.

That it's so easily prepared with staples is part of what makes it "the first thing to come through the door" to provide comfort and support, said Kathleen Purvis, a former food editor at the Charlotte Observer and the author of "Distilling the South."

"It's the kind of thing people take when they need to take something to someone who is either bereaved or they're going through something," Purvis said.

Equally worthy of entertaining, dropping off for a friend in need or simply enjoying on a weeknight, hot chicken salad does precisely what is asked of a casserole: to soothe, lift up and spread joy.



A timeless dish, hot chicken salad has many iterations but always brings joy. This one is topped with potato chips.
CHRISTOPHER TESTANI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hot chicken salad

Makes: 6 servings **Total time:** 1 hour
2 pounds cooked chicken, cut into 1-inch pieces
5 large celery stalks, cut into ½-inch slices at an angle
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup grated sharp cheddar (3 ounces)
½ cup slivered almonds
2 tablespoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon onion salt
Salt and black pepper
4 cups potato chips (classic or ridged), lightly crushed, plus more as needed
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees with a rack positioned in the center.
2. Place the chicken, celery, mayonnaise, cheddar, almonds, lemon juice and onion salt in a large bowl and mix to combine well. Taste for seasoning, and add salt and pepper as needed. The amount will depend

on how seasoned your chicken is.
3. Transfer the chicken mixture to a 3-quart (9-by-13-inch) shallow baking dish. Spread it out evenly and top with the crushed potato chips. Add more chips if needed to cover the top.
4. Bake uncovered until the chips are golden brown and the mixture is warmed through and bubbling lightly at the bottom, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and let sit for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.



A bright, tangerine-infused flan benefits greatly from advance preparation. DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

Start with dessert

Tangerine flan, prepared in advance, ends a midwinter menu of brightly dressed chicories and rich pork chops

By David Tanis
The New York Times

Dessert may cap a meal, but there’s wisdom in putting it first and foremost, particularly when preparing a large dinner. In fact, cooking dessert before anything else is often a wise strategy. The job is then out of the way, so you can concentrate on the savory dishes. And if you can make the dessert a full day ahead, so much the better.

Enter flan, which is best made a day or two in advance of serving, its flavors improving with time. While flan is often flavored with orange, this version incorporates that jewel of winter, tangerine, and is somewhat brighter in flavor.

A flan can be made in individual ramekins or in a single large mold. Either way, it’s a fiddly process. You need to make a caramel first to cover the bottom of the mold. For the best presentation — and flavor — be sure to let the caramel go quite dark, without burning. Once the eggy custard is prepared and poured into the mold, the whole affair is baked in a water bath and refrigerated.

Then it’s on to other, more savory bits that employ the best of this cool season’s produce: a stellar salad with curly endive, and pork chops with new-crop dates.

A salad is a fine way to begin a meal, no matter the time of year. Sturdy chicories are the salad greens of choice right now — not at all like tender lettuces, but wonderfully fresh tasting. For this menu, curly endive, also known as frisée, fits the bill nicely, alone or in



A brown-butter sauce with dates and crisp sage leaves tastes just as good with bites of pork as it does with parsnips.

combination with its colorful cousins, Belgian endive, Chioggia, Treviso or speckled Castelfranco radicchio.

All chicories have a slight, pleasant bitterness that stands up nicely to an assertive dressing — in this case, a mustardy vinaigrette. Chopped egg and Gruyère add interest (and a little protein). In fact, a large portion of this salad is great on its own, served as a light meal.

Pan-seared center-cut pork chops can be a nice splurge for a main — and what drew me to them was their ease of cooking. But to ensure they remain juicy and succulent, a simple brine comes in handy. Mix it up — it’s just a watery solution of salt, sugar and aromatics — and submerge the chops for a short period

or overnight. Even a couple hours of brining will achieve tender and tasty results.

For easy effect, sizzle soft medjool dates with butter and sage leaves to spoon over the finished chops, which gives them a blast of sweet-salty flavor. (If you can’t find dates, pitted prunes make a good substitute.) Parsnips work well as an accompaniment, but so would sweet potato or roasted squash. The date-and-brown-butter treatment tastes good with them, too.

Many elements of this meal can be prepared the day before, so being organized is key. But in return for your foresight, you’ll reap flavorful rewards, and your table-mates will applaud.



This supremely simple salad tastes pleasantly bitter, tangy and cheesy all at once.

Curly endive salad with mustard dressing, egg and Gruyère

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 25 minutes
4 large eggs, at room temperature
Ice water
3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 small garlic clove, grated or mashed to a paste
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and black pepper
4 large handfuls tender, pale curly endive (from the center of 2 medium heads), washed and dried
About 2 ounces Gruyère

1. Bring a small pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add eggs (the water should cover them) and return to a boil. Adjust heat so that the water is at a brisk simmer. For a runny yolk, cook for 7 minutes; for a gooey center, cook for 8 minutes; for a slightly moist center, cook for 9 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare an ice bath.

2. Immediately drain eggs and plunge into ice water to cool. When cool, crack and peel eggs. (Eggs can be cooked and peeled up to several hours in advance, and refrigerated.) Roughly chop eggs into haphazard slices.

3. Put vinegar, mustard and garlic in a small bowl. Whisk with a fork to dissolve. Slowly whisk in olive oil to make a slightly thick dressing. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

4. Put endive in a low, wide salad bowl and sprinkle very lightly with salt. Add dressing to taste and toss well. Transfer greens to individual plates. Top with chopped egg. With a vegetable peeler, shave thin slices of Gruyère over each salad.

Pan-seared pork chops with sage, dates and parsnips

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 30 minutes, plus at least 2 hours of brining
¼ cup kosher salt (Diamond Crystal), plus more for boiling
2 tablespoons sugar
1 large thyme sprig
4 bone-in pork chops, about ¾-inch thick (about 2 pounds)
2 pounds parsnips, peeled and cut into 3-inch sticks
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 tablespoons salted butter
12 large sage leaves
12 pitted medjool dates, halved
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
½ lemon, plus more to taste

1. Brine the chops: Put salt and sugar in a large bowl. Whisk in 4 cups water to dissolve. Add thyme sprig and pork chops. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to overnight. When ready to cook, remove chops from brine and pat dry. Discard brine.

2. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Put a large pot of well-salted water over high heat. When it boils, add parsnips and bring to a brisk simmer. Cook until parsnips are tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain parsnips and keep warm.

3. Meanwhile, set a large skillet over medium-high heat and add olive oil. When oil is wavy, sear chops until nicely browned, about 3 minutes per side. (Work in batches if you don’t have a large skillet.)

4. Transfer chops to a roasting pan or sheet pan in one layer. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until meat is 140 degrees when probed with an instant-read thermometer. Remove from oven and let rest while you make the sauce.

5. Wipe out the skillet and return to medium-high heat. Add butter and let it begin to brown. Add sage leaves and dates, and let sizzle for about a minute. Add pepper and lemon juice, and pull off heat. Taste, and add more pepper or lemon to taste.

6. To serve, place chops and a spoonful of parsnips on warm plates. Spoon butter mixture over chops and parsnips.

Tangerine flan

Makes: 6 servings
Total time: 2 hours, plus at least 4 hours’ refrigerating
For the caramel:
½ cup sugar
½ cup tangerine juice (from 3 to 4 medium tangerines)
For the custard:
2 cups half-and-half
½ cup sugar
2 dried bay leaves
1 small rosemary sprig (optional)
¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
3 large eggs, at room temperature
½ cup tangerine juice (from 3 to 4 medium

tangerines)
Tangerine segments, for garnish (optional)
1. Set a rack in the center of the oven, and heat oven to 350 degrees. Have 6 (4-ounce) ramekins ready. Make the caramel: Combine sugar and tangerine juice in a small skillet or saucepan. Set over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar, and bring to a simmer.
2. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until mixture begins to thicken, about 5 minutes. Continue simmering until mixture begins to caramelize and brown, stirring or swirling the pan, 5 to 6 minutes more. Let the caramel go as dark as possible without burning, to a deep brown color, then carefully pour a bit in the bottom of each ramekin, dividing the hot caramel among them evenly. Set ramekins aside at

room temperature.
3. Make the custard: Put the half-and-half and sugar in a medium saucepan, and set over medium-high heat. Add bay leaves, rosemary (if using) and vanilla. Bring to just under a simmer, then turn off heat. Stir to dissolve sugar.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs and tangerine juice. Whisk in the hot half-and-half mixture a little at a time.
5. Strain the custard through a fine-mesh sieve set over a medium bowl. Set ramekins in a deep baking dish. Fill each ramekin with ½ cup of the strained mixture.
6. Place baking dish on middle rack in the oven. Add hot tap water to baking dish so it comes halfway up the sides of the

ramekins. Cover dish tightly with foil and bake until custards set, 25 to 30 minutes. Start checking at 15 minutes. When done, custards should look opaque and just a little wiggly. Insert a paring knife into the center of the flan to test. The knife should come out clean.
7. Carefully remove ramekins from water bath and let cool to room temperature. Wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.
8. To serve, run a small knife around the inside edge of each ramekin to loosen the flan. Invert a dessert plate over the ramekin, then flip plate while securing ramekin. Tap or shake ramekin, lift from plate and the flan will release. Spoon any remaining caramel around flan. Garnish with tangerine segments, if desired.

Wine business sees a problem: millennials

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

The American wine industry believes it has a problem: millennials. More specifically, it's the fact that aging baby boomers — currently the prime market for wine — are nearing retirement age, the time of life when consumerism typically declines. Millennials, the generation that began to come of age after the turn of the century, have given no indication that they are poised to step in. They buy much less wine than boomers, and the wine industry has not done enough to entice them to become regular consumers.

In his annual State of the U.S. Wine Industry report, presented last month, Rob McMillan, an executive vice president of Silicon Valley Bank in Santa Clara, California, and a long-time analyst of the American wine market, issued a forceful warning that a day of reckoning was coming.

"In prior reports, we noted that the falling interest in wine among younger consumers, coupled with the encroaching retirement and decreasing wine consumption of baby boomers, poses a primary threat to the business," McMillan said. "That issue has yet to be addressed or solved, and the negative consequences are increasingly evident."

Sales of American wine could plummet by 20% in the next decade, he said. It's not exactly clear what the industry can do to change this dynamic. As the father of two millennial sons, I am something of an expert on being unable to persuade millennials to do as I suggest. But McMillan, who has analyzed the wine industry for decades, has more than a few ideas for an effective strategy.

First, some background: In this discussion it may seem as if Generation X,



As baby boomers retire and buy less wine, producers need new ways to tempt a White Claw generation back from other alcoholic drinks, according to a new report. CAT O'NEIL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

the generation between the boomers and the millennials, has been overlooked.

This group is smaller than both the baby boomers, the huge population born roughly from 1946-1964, and the millennials, born from 1980-1995.

Because of the size difference, Generation X it has less buying power, although its wine-buying behavior does not seem that different from boomers'. Generation Z, born, approximately, after 1995, has too few years of legal drinking to really figure into the data.

McMillan quoted a Harris Poll of nearly 2,000 adults from November, which asked what beverage they would bring to share at a party. The choices were wine, beer, spirits, flavored malt beverages, hard seltzer or cider.

Wine was the overwhelming choice among those 65 and older. The top choice was roughly split between wine and beer for those 35-64, with the other options trailing in the distance. But people ages 21-34 were almost evenly

split among five options, with cider trailing.

Wine simply is not preferred by younger people. McMillan pointed to the reopening of restaurants in 2021 after COVID-19 vaccines became available; during that period, sales of wine declined as sales of spirits rose.

Millennials grew up in a world that has been far more encouraging of connoisseurship than when boomers were young. Social media has given everybody the opportunity to exercise their critical voices, for better or worse. Millennials are a more discerning generation, at a younger age, than baby boomers were.

But as McMillan points out, millennials have less disposable income than their parents and more economic fears. They are often burdened by student debt, have fewer middle-class job opportunities and cannot assume they will ever be able to afford real estate.

That's a primary reason that millennials have

gravitated to beer and spirits rather than wine. The difference between a mass-market brew and a world-class beer is just a few dollars. A really good cocktail at a restaurant might cost the same as a glass of mediocre wine.

These are structural issues, but McMillan also noted the shortcomings of the wine industry in appealing to younger consumers. First, it has failed to recognize the changing demographics that millennials represent.

"While only 28% of the boomer population is nonwhite, 45% of the millennial population — and almost half of Gen Z — is nonwhite," he said.

Without question, the wine industry has been slow to adapt. After the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 and the racial reckoning that followed, the wine industry, or rather a small part of it, began to make some effort to diversify its appeal and its workforce. But the experiences of Black wine professionals and Black consumers show how far

the industry has to go to make it a more welcoming, inclusive place.

McMillan also asserted that millennial consumers are more concerned with social justice and with health and environmental issues, including climate change. Among his recommendations, he suggests that producers list their ingredients and offer nutritional data, like calories per serving, and that they be clear about their social values, their efforts to address environmental concerns and their strategies for lowering their carbon footprints.

"The strange reality is that it would be easy to start talking about wine in an evolved way and to reference the many things that are already a part of what we do to produce wine, and that would resonate with younger consumers," McMillan said. "Yet as an industry we are not doing it."

This is where his report seems problematical. The American wine industry is by no means united in supporting social-justice

causes or meaningfully diversifying its workforce. It has no industrywide plan for combating climate change, reducing chemical farming or cutting its carbon footprint. It has fought tooth and nail to avoid listing ingredients and nutritional data.

The report suggests that a marketing campaign might be the answer.

These sorts of slogans are likely to be bland and inoffensive, as they must represent a wide range of producers with wildly differing points of view. I don't know much about marketing, but it strikes me that actual change in the industry would go a lot further in appealing to young people than targeting them with a public-relations campaign.

That means attacking complicated, thorny issues with solutions that are just as divisive in the wine industry as they are in the country as a whole.

If, as McMillan argues, younger consumers are truly concerned with social justice and environmental issues, what will an anodyne marketing campaign achieve?

In my little corner of the wine world, I see younger people drawn to natural wines and to traditional styles. These sorts of wines meet many of the concerns that McMillan expressed, and have demonstrated their appeal.

The winemakers do that by showing their concern with the environment by farming conscientiously, sticking with traditional ingredients and processes and, increasingly, I hope, by addressing social justice and equity issues that are as apparent in natural wine as anywhere else.

It's not just a question of perception, it's a matter of action, of demonstrating a commitment to change and to making the effort. Slogans will not paper over a failure to do that.



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG



Buttermilk pound cake with hints of lemon and orange is the perfect way to celebrate citrus season. GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Glazed
lemon-orange
pound cake

Makes: 1 pound cake
For the cake:
2 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 cups granulated sugar
4 extra-large eggs at room temperature
Zest from 3 lemons
Zest from 3 oranges
3 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon kosher salt
¼ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
¾ cup buttermilk at room temperature
1 teaspoon lemon extract
For the glaze:
1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar
Juice and zest of 1 orange
Zest from 1 lemon
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with butter or cooking spray.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream butter and 2 cups of granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 4 to 5 minutes. Beat in eggs and orange and lemon zest.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, combine orange juice, buttermilk and lemon extract. Add flour and buttermilk mixtures alternately to the batter. Pour batter into the loaf pan, and lightly rap on the counter a few times to make sure it's settled and smooth on top. Bake for 45 minutes, or until cake tester comes out clean.
4. Take cake out of the oven and make the glaze. In small bowl, whisk together confectioners' sugar and orange juice until it reaches the desired consistency to spread and drip slightly. (Add more juice if it's too thick or more sugar if it's too thin.)
5. When cake is almost cool, drizzle glaze on top and down sides, then sprinkle with orange and lemon zest.
— Adapted from [wornslapout.com](#)

Will the sun to shine with this citrusy pound cake

By Gretchen McKay
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If there's one bright spot this time of year, it's that winter is the peak of the citrus season, and oranges, grapefruit and lemons are in ample supply. With their bright, cheerful colors

and sweet-tart flavors, winter citrus offers a taste of sunshine that jazzes up just about any recipe while adding a daily dose of vitamin C. This moist and buttery pound cake is perfumed with lemon and orange and has an easy orange glaze for a sugary finish.

It's perfect with a cup of afternoon tea or topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream for a decadent dessert. The original recipe divided the batter between two loaf pans, but I used a single 9-by-5-inch pan. Also, because I didn't have buttermilk on hand, I used this hack: Add 1 table-

spoon of fresh lemon juice to 1 cup of milk to curdle it. My family gobbled this tasty pound cake up in no time flat, but it also can be kept at room temperature tightly wrapped in plastic for up to three days, and it will store beautifully in the freezer for up to three months.



A new way to cook these vegetables avoids the soggy people might associate with zucchini. KENDRA ELIZABETH SMITH/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Salting ensures crisps live up to their name

America's Test Kitchen

Vegetables and fruits such as carrots and zucchini (surprise — a zucchini is technically a fruit) are mostly made up of water. (A zucchini or carrot is about 95% water.) It can be a challenge to deal with all that water when cooking or baking. No one likes soggy zucchini bread! One of salt's many superpowers is that it can pull water out of food. Plants are

made up of countless tiny cells. When you sprinkle salt on vegetables and fruits, some of the water inside the cells is pulled out toward the salt. This process is called osmosis. Squeezing the shredded zucchini and carrot in a towel gets out some of the water, but salting them and letting osmosis do its work lets you squeeze out double the water. So, for crisps that are crispy — not soggy — use salt to draw out that extra water before cooking.

Cheesy zucchini-carrot crisps

Makes: 2 to 4 servings (12 crisps)
1 small zucchini (6 ounces)
1 small carrot, peeled
½ teaspoon salt
⅓ cup panko bread crumbs
¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese (1 ounce)
1 large egg, cracked into bowl and lightly beaten with fork
½ teaspoon garlic powder
1. Adjust oven rack to the upper-middle position and heat to 425 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper and spray with vegetable oil spray.
2. Trim off the ends of the zucchini and carrot. Shred zucchini and carrot on the large holes of a box grater.
3. Set a fine-mesh strainer over a large bowl. Transfer shredded vegetables to a strainer and sprinkle with salt. Stir until combined.

Let sit for 10 minutes to drain.
4. Place a clean dish towel on counter. When salted vegetables are ready, transfer to the center of the dish towel. Gather the ends of towel together, twist tightly and squeeze hard over the sink, draining as much liquid as possible. Discard any liquid from the large bowl and add vegetables to the bowl.
5. Add panko, cheddar, egg and garlic powder to bowl with the vegetables. Stir mixture until combined.
6. Use a 1-tablespoon measuring spoon to scoop and drop the vegetable mixture onto a baking sheet in 12 mounds (about 1 heaping tablespoon each). Use your hand to gently press each mound to flatten into a thin circle.
7. Bake crisps until edges are browned, 13 to 15 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and place on a cooling rack. Let crisps cool for 10 minutes. Serve.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

The perfect dish to round out your comfort meal

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

These dreary months of cold, damp weather are reason enough to cook up something full of comfort and deep, rich flavors. That's why I love this dish. It can be the sidekick to many main entrees. Recently, I roasted a goose and served this alongside

to rave reviews. A savory and comforting winter dish, this luscious cabbage would also be wonderful served with roast pork chops or loin or pork, roast Cornish hens, chicken breasts or thighs, grilled chicken or turkey sausages, or my favorite winter beef pot roast: sauerbraten. Goose fat is the secret ingredient in this time-

tested classic. You'll find frozen goose fat at a good European deli. If you can't find it, you can use duck fat, chicken fat or olive oil. The warm spices of nutmeg and cloves, apples and red wine offer up sweetened, fruity layers of flavor. This is one of those dishes that requires just a few steps to prepare and tastes even better after a day.



This dish can be the sidekick to many main entrees. DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON/TNS

Braised red cabbage with red wine

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
3 tablespoons goose fat
1 onion, finely chopped
1 carrot, peeled and finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 large red cabbage (about 3 ½ to 4 pounds), shredded
2 green apples, peeled, cored and coarsely chopped
1 cup dry red wine
1 ½ cups chicken broth, divided
½ teaspoon salt, or to taste
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 bay leaf
Good pinch ground nutmeg
Good pinch ground cloves
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley, for garnish
1. In a medium Dutch oven or casserole,

heat the fat over medium heat. Saute onion and carrot until softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Add garlic and saute another minute.
2. Add the shredded cabbage and chopped apples to the pan. Cover the pan for 2 minutes to steam the cabbage and encourage it to soften. Remove the top, toss and cook for 5 to 6 minutes more, stirring occasionally, or until the cabbage is beginning to soften.
3. Add 1 cup each of wine and broth, the salt, pepper, seasonings and sugar, stir to mix well and cover the pan. Reduce the heat to very low and simmer gently for about 1 hour, or until very tender. Add the remaining ½ cup broth and the vinegar and cook, covered for 15 more minutes or until the mixture is nicely flavored and the cabbage is soft. Taste for seasoning.
4. Transfer into a serving bowl using a slotted spoon and garnish with the parsley. Advance preparation: This may be made up to three days ahead; cover and refrigerate. Reheat gently.